APPENDIX

CONSIDERATIONS

CONSIDERATIONS

ON

INDIA AFFAIRS.

PART II.

VOL. III.

ERRATA.

Page		*for*	*read*
11,	In the *first* line of the note, . . .	on . . .	in.
27,	——— *sixth* line of the note, . . .	narrative .	text.
59,	——— *sixteenth* line, ...	20th *September*	25th *September*.
81,	——— *seventh* line from the bottom,	*Kkelaat* . .	*Khelaat*.
142,	——— *second* line of the note, . .	this paſſage	this paragraph.
166,	——— *third* paragraph, ...	any manner	any mat er.
174,	——— outward column, ...	13	15.
237,	——— *twelfth* line of the note, . .	1ſt *October* 1767	1ſt *October* 1766.
257,	——— *fiftieth* paragraph, ...	*Churnar-fort*	*Chunar-fort*.
261,	——— *fourth* line of the 13th paragraph,	ſcheme . .	ſcene.
287,	——— title to number IV.	Feyſabad .	Fyzabad.
297,	——— *ſecond* note, ...	page 233 .	page 223.
356,	——— *tenth* line, ...	nt	ſent.
615,	——— *fourteenth* line, ...	nd	and.

14627

APPENDIX

TO

CONSIDERATIONS

ON

INDIA AFFAIRS,

PART II.

CONTAINING

A complete VINDICATION of the AUTHOR, from the MALICIOUS and GROUNDLESS CHARGES of MR. VERELST:

WITH

A juſt EXPOSURE of the FATAL IGNORANCE and INJUSTICE of the late Courts of EAST INDIA DIRECTORS in LONDON, and of the Oppreſſions and Iniquities of their late GOVERNING-SERVANTS in BENGAL.

The Whole ſupported by ſo copious a Collection of INDISPUTABLE AUTHORITIES, as will effectually demonſtrate what immenſe Injuries have been ſuffered therefrom by

THE COMPANY, the ſubjected PROVINCES in INDIA, and this KINGDOM.

BY WILLIAM BOLTS.

LONDON:

Printed for J. DODSLEY, Pallmall; G. ROBSON, New Bond-ſtreet; J. ALMON, Piccadilly; JEFFERIES and FADEN, Charing-croſs; P. ELMSLY, in the Strand; W. OWEN, Fleet-ſtreet; T. EVANS, Paternoſter-row; BROTHERTON and SEWELL, in Cornhill; and RICHARDSON and URQUHART, under the Royal Exchange.

MDCCLXXV.

PART II.

INDIA AFFAIRS;

OR

CONSIDERATIONS

TO

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

LETTER A.

Containing Copies of PUBLIC PAPERS, LETTERS, and PROCEEDINGS relative to the Syſtems of TRADE, JUSTICE, and POLITICS of the EAST INDIA COMPANY; and particularly reſpecting the Conduct of their late SELECT COMMITTEES in BENGAL.

NUM. I.

*COPY of an * Agreement made between the Governor and Company of Merchants of* London *trading to the* East Indies *and the* Armenian *Nation, dated 22d* June 1688.

The Governor and Company of Merchants of *London* trading to the *Eaſt Indies*, to all to whom theſe preſents ſhall come, ſend greeting:

WHEREAS repreſentation hath been made to us by Sir *Joſiah Child*, Baronet, our Deputy Governor, that, upon long conferences by him had with *Cogee Rhanoos Calendar*, an *Armenian* merchant of eminency, and an inhabitant of *Iſphahan* in *Perſia*, as alſo with Sir *John Chardin* of *London*, Knight, they had, on behalf of the *Armenian* nation, propoſed to him ſeveral particulars for carrying on a great part of the *Armenian* trade to *India* and *Perſia*, and from thence to *Europe* by way of *England*, which will redound greatly to his Majeſty's advantage in his cuſtoms, and to the increaſe of the *Engliſh* navigation, if the *Armenian* nation might obtain ſuch licence from this Company as will give them encouragement ſo to alter and invert the ancient courſe of their trade to and from *Europe*. And we being always willing to increaſe and encourage the public trade and navigation of this kingdom, after a ſerious debate of all the propoſitions relating to this affair, have thought fit to agree and reſolve as follows, *viz.*

* See Reports of the Houſe of Commons, 1772 and 1773, vol. 3d, page 283.

Firſt, That the *Armenian* nation ſhall now, and at all times hereafter, have equal ſhare and benefit of all indulgences this Company have, or ſhall at any time hereafter grant to any of their own Adventurers, or other *Engliſh* Merchants whatſoever.

Secondly, That they ſhall have free liberty, at all times hereafter, to paſs and repaſs to and from *India* in any of the Company's ſhips, on as advantageous terms as any freeman whatſoever.

Thirdly, That they ſhall have liberty to live in any of the Company's cities, garriſons, or towns in *India*; and to buy, ſell, and purchaſe land and houſes, and be capable of all civil offices and preferments, in the ſame manner as if they were *Engliſhmen* born; and ſhall always have the free and undiſturbed liberty of the exerciſe of their own religion. And we hereby declare, That we will not continue any Governor in our ſervice that ſhall, in any kind, diſturb or diſcountenance them in the full enjoyment of all the privileges hereby granted to them; neither ſhall they pay any other or greater duty in *India* than the Company's factors, or any other *Engliſhmen* born do, or ought to do.

Fourthly, That they may voyage from any of the Company's garriſons to any other ports or places in *India*, the * *South Seas*, *China*, or the *Manillas*, in any of the Company's ſhips, or any permiſſive free ſhips allowed by the Company: and may have liberty to trade to *China*, the *Manillas*, or any other ports or places within the limits of the Company's charter, upon equal terms, duties, and freight, with any free *Engliſhman* whatſoever.

But whereas all perſons in *England* do pay for bullion outwards two *per cent.* for freight and permiſſion, and three *per cent.* homewards for diamonds and other precious ſtones, it is hereby declared and agreed, That the *Armenians* ſhall pay three *per cent.* outwards for bullion, and two *per cent.* homewards for diamonds; for coral and amber-beads they ſhall pay ſix *per cent.* for freight and permiſſion; and for coral, amber, raw-cochineal, quick-ſilver, ſword-blades, fire-arms of all ſorts, haberdaſhery wares, iron of all ſorts, wrought or unwrought, paper, all ſorts of ſtationary wares, *Engliſh* looking or drinking glaſſes, and for all ſorts of *Norimbergh* wares and merchandizes, ten *per cent.* for permiſſion, and ſix pounds *per* ton freight. That all ſorts of leather, and *Venetian* wares and merchandizes may be ſhipt out permiſſion-free, paying only ſix pounds *per* ton freight. For all cloth or woollen manufactures, of what kind or ſort ſoever, they ſhall pay twelve and one-half *per cent.* in lieu of all charges whatſoever, excepting on the freight and the Company's cuſtoms in *India*. For lead ten *per cent.* permiſſion, and three pounds *per* ton freight. For proviſions of all ſorts for eating and drinking, ſix pounds *per* ton freight, but no permiſſion. And for all ſorts of goods homeward bound they ſhall pay in manner and form following, *viz.* For diamonds, pearls, rubies, all ſorts of precious ſtones, and

* A ſtrong proof this that the South-Sea Company's Charter for excluſive trade to and in the South Seas, &c. granted twenty-two years after this agreement took place, was a groſs violation of the rights of the *Eaſt India* Company. For more on this ſubject, ſee *Conſiderations on* India *Affairs*, chap. XI. pages 141 and 142, 2d edition.

ambergris,

ambergris, two *per cent.* freight, and permiſſion as aforeſaid. For muſk of any kind ſix *per cent.* for freight and permiſſion. For pepper one penny *per* pound, and for coffee ten *per cent.* permiſſion, beſides freight. For all raw-ſilk of *Perſia* twenty-one pounds *per* ton freight, but no permiſſion, cuſtom, or any other charges whatſoever, excepting only two and one-half *per cent.* towards demorage of our ſhips. For all goods whatſoever of the growth and manufacture of *Perſia* (red *Carmenia* wool excepted, which is hereby totally prohibited) ten *per cent.* permiſſion, and the ſame freights as the Company themſelves pay, without any other charges whatſoever. For all ſorts of *China* and *Bengal* goods, during the Company's indulgence for thoſe kind of goods, and no longer, in what place ſoever laden, thirteen *per cent.* for permiſſion and all other charges whatſoever, over and above the ſame freight as the Company pay, and the cuſtoms hereafter mentioned, *viz.* All goods outward and homeward bound are to pay the Company in *Eaſt India* five *per cent.* cuſtom on the firſt coſt, as *per* invoices of the ſaid goods, whether they be laden from or delivered into any of the Company's ports or places, or into any other ports or places whatſoever, excepting only from this article, all bullion, diamonds, and other precious ſtones, ambergris, muſk, and raw *Perſian* ſilk. And it is agreed, that the permiſſion-money and freight for all goods outward bound to be paid in *India*, as aforeſaid, ſhall be accounted for at eight and one-half rupees *per* pound ſterling, upon hypothecation of the goods to the Company in *London*. And we do declare, That, for eaſe of accounts, the cuſtom due to the Company in *Eaſt India* is to be included, together with the other charges, *viz.* Freight and permiſſion according to the premiſes, and all inſerted in one ſum upon the reſpective bills of loading; which ſum is always to be paid before the delivery of the goods to the perſons mentioned in the ſaid bills of loading, which is the true intent of the hypothecation before expreſſed. That all goods which have once paid cuſtom are not to pay any again, either upon importation, or exportation of the ſame goods to the place where they firſt pay it, or to any other port or place belonging to us in the *Eaſt Indies*. That every perſon that ſhall take paſſage on any of the Company's ſhips, ſhall pay in *Eaſt India* twelve pounds ſterling for his permiſſion outwards, at the rate of eight rupees and one-half *per* pound ſterling; and the like ſum to be paid here for every perſon that ſhall take paſſage homeward, beſides eight pounds *per* head for ſea-proviſions, which it is hereby agreed ſhall always be paid in *London*. And for ſuch perſons who ſhall board at the Captain's table, they ſhall pay ten guineas to the Captain for the ſame; but the ſervants ſhall be meſſed apart by themſelves, and always have the ſame allowances of ſhip-proviſions as the officers and ſeamen of the ſhip have, or ought to have. And it is alſo granted to the ſaid *Armenians*, that the paſſengers ſhall be allowed, both out and home, to carry with them their wearing cloaths, furniture, and proviſions, not exceeding one quarter of a ton for each man, freight free. And whereas the ſaid *Armenians* have uſed to drive a great trade from *India* to *Turkey* over land, by way of *Perſia* and *Arabia*, and are now deſirous to drive that whole trade by the way of *England*; it is hereby declared and agreed, That the ſaid *Armenians* have

libert/

liberty to ſend, upon any of the Company's ſhips for *England*, any ſorts of goods of *Eaſt India*, conſigning them to the Company by true invoices and bills of loading, and not otherwiſe, paying ten *per cent.* permiſſion on the value of the ſaid goods in *London*, beſides the ſame freight as we ourſelves pay. And it is hereby declared, That the Company have liberty to detain, and keep in their poſſeſſion, all ſuch goods as ſhall be conſigned unto them as aforeſaid, until they have ſhipped them off upon *Engliſh* ſhipping, bound to *Turkey*, *Venice*, or *Legborn*, and taken ſecurity that they ſhall not be landed in any other ports or places of *Europe*, except the place to which they ſhall be conſigned, according as they ſhall be directed by the ſaid *Armenian* proprietors or their agents. And, laſtly, it is declared and agreed, That notwithſtanding any thing aforeſaid, it ſhall and may be lawful for the ſaid Company to reſerve and keep for their own uſe any of the ſaid goods ſo intended for *Turkey* as aforeſaid, paying the proprietors one-third part clear profit on the firſt coſt of the goods as aforeſaid; all freight, charges, and diſburſements whatſoever being firſt deducted and foreprized, eight rupees in *India* being in this caſe to be accounted for one pound ſterling. In witneſs whereof, the Governor, Deputy Governor, and three of the committee of the ſaid Company have hereunto ſet their hands, and cauſed the larger ſeal of the ſaid Company to be affixed, this two-and-twentieth day of *June*, *anno Domini* 1688, and in the fourth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord *James* the Second, by the Grace of God, King of *England*, *Scotland*, *France*, and *Ireland*, Defender of the Faith, *&c.*

(Signed) BENJAMIN BATHURST, Governor.
JOSIAH CHILD, Deputy Governor.
—— WORCESTER.
JOHN MOORE.
GEORGE BOUN.

The Governor and Company of Merchants of *London* trading into the *Eaſt Indies*, to all whom it may concern, ſend greeting:

WHEREAS *Cogee Phanoos Calendar*, an *Armenian* merchant of eminency, and an inhabitant of *Iſphahan* in *Perſia*, hath taken great pains in making an agreement with the ſaid Company for a great trade to be carried on in *Engliſh* ſhipping by himſelf and others of the *Armenian* nation; the ſaid Governor and Company, in conſideration thereof do, by theſe preſents (at the requeſt of the ſaid *Cogee Phanoos Calendar*) freely grant unto him and his family the ſole trade of Garnet, he paying ten *per cent.* cuſtom for the ſame, and the uſual freight paid by the Company. And the ſaid Company do hereby declare, That they will neither trade in the ſaid commodity themſelves, nor ſuffer any other perſons, *Engliſh* or ſtrangers, for the future to trade or traffick in that commodity. Given under the Company's larger ſeal, as alſo under the hands of the Governor, Deputy Governor, and three of the committee of the ſaid Company, this two-and-twentieth day of *June*, *anno Domini* 1688, and in the fourth year of

the reign of our Sovereign Lord *James* the Second, by the Grace of God, King of *England*, *Scotland*, *France*, and *Ireland*, Defender of the Faith, *&c.*

(Signed,) BENJAMIN BATHURST, Governor.
JOSIAH CHILD, Deputy Governor.
—— WORCESTER.
JOHN MOORE.
GEORGE BOUN.

The Governor and Company of Merchants of *London* trading into the *Eaſt Indies*, to all to whom it may concern, ſend greeting:

WHEREAS it hath been repreſented to us, that the *Armenian* nation have a deſire to carry on a trade and commerce with our people in the *Eaſt Indies*, we do, for the better encouragement of that nation to ſettle and cohabit in the ſeveral garriſons, cities, and towns in the *Eaſt Indies* under our juriſdiction, by theſe preſents declare, grant, and agree, that whenever forty or more of the *Armenian* nation ſhall become inhabitants in any of the garriſons, cities, or towns belonging to the Company in the *Eaſt Indies*, the ſaid *Armenians* ſhall not only have and enjoy the free uſe and exerciſe of their religion, but there ſhall be alſo allotted to them a parcel of ground, to erect a church thereon for the worſhip and ſervice of God in their own way. And that we will alſo, at our own charge, cauſe a convenient church to be built of timber, which afterwards the ſaid *Armenians* may alter and build with ſtone, or other ſolid materials, to their own good liking. And the ſaid Governor and Company will alſo allow fifty pounds *per annum*, during the ſpace of ſeven years, for the maintenance of ſuch prieſt, or miniſter, as they ſhall chuſe to officiate therein. Given under the Company's larger ſeal, as alſo under the hands of the Governor, Deputy Governor, and three of the committee of the ſaid Company, this two and twentieth day of *June*, *anno Domini* 1688, and in the fourth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord *James* the Second, King of *England*, *Scotland*, *France*, and *Ireland*, Defender of the Faith, *&c.*

(Signed) BENJAMIN BATHURST, Governor.
JOSIAH CHILD, Deputy Governor.
—— WORSESTER.
JOHN MOORE.
GEORGE BOUN.

Num. II.

COPY, in the Perſian *Language, of the original Firmaun granted in the Year* 1717, *by the Emperor* Furrukhſeer, *to the* Engliſh Eaſt India *Company, for carrying on their Trade in* Bengal, Bahar, *and* Oriſſa; *with the Reading in* Roman *Characters, and a Literal Tranſlation.*

THE PERSIAN ORIGINAL.

نقل فرمان بنگالا و بهار و اوديسه انكه

*خلدمكان

حكام و عمال و مباشران اشتغال و جاگيرداران و فوجداران و
گرورپان و گذربانان و زمينداران حال و استقبال صوبه بنگالا
و بهار و اوديسه و بندر هوگلي وغيره بنادر صوبهاي مذكور
بعنايت پادشاهي اميدوار بوده برانند كه در ين ايام فتح
قريب و نصرت انجام مستر جان سارمن و خواجه سرهد
گباشتهاي كمپني انگريز معروض پيشگاه عدالت گستري و
نصفت پروري گردانيدند كه بموجب نشان غفران پناه رضوان
وستگاه مشمول مراحم خالق و حيد حضرت * سعيد
عاملة الله بلطف المجيد و اسناد پيشين حاصل كمپني انگريز
در ممالك محروسه سواي بندر سورت معاف است ودر بندر
هوگلي سه هزار روپيه عيوض محصول هر سال بتريق پيشكش
داخل خزانه سركار والا ميسازند اميدوار اند كه متابق اسناد سابق
فرمان والا شان مرحمت گردد حكم جهانمطاع عالم مطي شرف
نفاز مييابد كه اسباب و اشياي كه گباشتهاي او بهبندر صوبها
و اطراف و جوانب از راه خشكي و تري بيارند و بهبرند
محصول ان معاف شناخته ربعي و شري مختيار دانند و سه
هزار روپيه مقرري هر سال بگيرند و سواي ان بهيچ وجه مزاهم
نشوند و اگر در محلي از اموال او چيزي بسرقه رود در بهم
رسانيدن

* خلدمکان
رسانیدن ان سعي بکار برند و دزدان را بسزاي و مال را بمالک
رسانند و هر جا که کوتهي ساخته اسباب و اجناس بخرند و
بفروشند در امور حسابي امداد و اعانت نمایند و نزد هر کس
که از بیوپاریان تانتي وغیره طلب حسابي داشته باشند از روي
حق و حساب بر کماشتهاي او عاید گردانند و نگذارند که کسي
بر کماشتهایش تعدي کند و بعلت کهتباره وغیره مزاحم
کشتیهاي خانگي و کرآي نشوند و نیز بعرض اقدس ارفي اعلي
رسانیدند که در صوبها دیوانیان جز سند اصل مطابق بهر نازم
و دیوان صوبه طلب میکنند سند اصل در هر جا رسانیدن دشوار
است امیدوارند که بموجب نقل بهر قاضي اعتبار نمایند و
طلب سند اصل نکنند و براي مطابق ناضم و دیوان مزاحمت
نرسانند و در کلکته کوتهي کمپني مقرر است تعلقداري کلکته
و سوتانوتي و گوبندپور عمله پرگنه امیراباد وغیره صوبه بنگالا
که از زمینداران از سابق مقرر است یک هزار و یک صد و نود
و پنج روپیه و شش انه جمع ان هر سال واصل میسازد و سي
و هشت دیه بجمع هشت هزار و یک صد و بیست و یک
روپیه و هشت انه متصل مواضع مذکوره اشت تعلقداري
مواضع مذکور نیز مرحمت شود که جمع ان را سال بسال عاید
خزانه میکرده باشند حکم نصفت شیم عزصدور یافت که نقل
بهر قاضي القضات اعتبار نمایند و ذاتي که خرید نموده اند
بدستور سابق بحال و تعلقداري دیگر مواضع ملتمسه مرحمت
فرمودیم از مالکان خرید نمایند دیوانیان صوبه واگذارند نیز
التماس نمودند که از عهد صاعد مصاعد قرب حضرت *
اسکنه اعلي درجات الجنان بر زر سکه چیناپتن در خزاین
صوبها قصور میگیرند حال انکه زر نقره مذکور به دستور بندر
سورت است لهذا بندها نقصان میکشند حکم والا صادر گردد
که بر تقریر جنس اعلي بدستور بندر سورت وغیره مزاحم
نشوند و هر کس از نوکران کمپني مطالبه دار باشد و جاي
برخاسته

* والا
برخاسته برود نزد سردار کوتهي بفرستند و بعلت توجداري وغيره
ابواب ممنوعه که گماشتها و عملهٔ کمپني بسبب ان پريشاني
ميکشند متعرض نگردند حکم محکم معلي عزنفاذ يافت که از
سنه پنجم جلوس مبارک اگر نقره مسکوک چيناپتن مسل
سکه بندر مبارک سورت باشد بعلت قصور مزاحم نشوند و هر
کس از نوکران مطالبهدار باشد و جاي برخاسته برود بدست
اورده حواله سردار کوتي نمايند و بعلت اختر ابواب ممنوعه
مزاحمت نرسانند و نيز معروض داشتند که در بنگاله و بهار و
اوديسه کوتهي‌هاي کمپني مقرر است و در جاهاي ديگر کوتهي‌ها
خواهند کرد اميدوار اند هر جا که کوتهي مقرر سازند چهل بيگه زمين
از سرکار* براي کوتهي‌ها مرحمت شود و جهازات بعض اوقات
بسبب طوفان باد در بنادر بکناره مي‌افتند و شکسته ميگردند
حکام بنادر از راه ظلم مال‌را ضبط مينمايند و بعضي جا چهارم
حصه ميخواهند و در جزيره بنبعي متعلقه انگريز سکه ترنگي رايج
است بدستور چيناپتن سکه مبارک مسکوک ميشده باشد حکم
جهانمطاع لازم الاتباع بعزصدور پيوست که بدستور کوتهي‌هاي
ديگر صوبها بعمل ارند و اين جماعترا که کوتهي‌ها در بنادر بادشاهي
داد و ستد در اردوي معلي دارند و فرامين کرامت اين متضمن
رعايت محصول حاصل کرده اند محافظت مال جهازات
شکسته و تباهي شدهٔ اين‌ها بواجبي ميکرده باشند و در جزيره
بنبعي سکه مبارک مسکوک و بدستور ممالک محروسه رايج شود
و در جميع امور بر طبق اين منشور لامع النور بعمل اورده
از خلاف حکم محکم معلي محترز و مجتنب باشند و هر
سال سند مجدد تطلبند در ين باب تاکيد اکيد دانند بيست و
هفتم محرم الحرام سال پنجم از جلوس ميمنت مانوس
سمت تحرير يافت

* بر رساله &c. &c.

THE READING IN ROMAN CHARACTERS.

*Nukl Firmaun Bengala o Behar o Oriſſa, anke;

HUKAAM, o Ammaal, o Mobaſheraan iſhteghaal, o Jagueerdaraan, o Fowzdaraan, o Karooreaan, o Guzerbaunaan, o Zemindaraan haal o iſhtukbaal, Subah Bengala, o Behar, o Oriſſa, o Bunder Hoogly ogueirah benader Subahay muzkooreh, be inayet Padſhahy omedwaar budeh; BEDANEND, ke der een ayaam, futteh kareeb o nuſſrut anjaam, Mr. John Surman o Khoajeh Serhaud Gomaſhtahay Company Ingrez maarooz peſhgah, adalut guſtry o niſfut perveree, guerdanidund, ke "bemowjeb neſhaan, "ghafraan panáh, rezwaan duſtegáh, muſhmool merahum khalek o heyd "Huzzerut (†) Seyd amleh ulah, belutf almojeyd, o aſnaad "peſheen, haſel Company Ingrez der momalek mahruzeh, ſeway Bunder "Surat, maaf eſt; O der Bunder Hoogly ſeh hazaar Rupeiah, euwuz mahſool, "her ſaal, betareeyuk peſhkuſh, dakhel Khazaneh Sircar wala meſazund; "omedwaar end, ke motabek aſnaad ſabek, Firmaun-wala-ſhaan merhum-"mut gurdud." Hukm Jehaan motágh, Allum motae, ſherf nefaaz meyabud, ke aſbaab o aſheaay ke Gomaſhtahay oo bebenader Subaha, o atraaf o jevaneb, az rah khoſhkee o terree, bearend o beborend, mahſool aan maaf ſhenaakhteh, derbee o ſherree mokhtiaar danend, o ſeh hazaar Rupeiah mokurruree her ſaal begueerend; o ſeway aan, be heech wujeh mozahem ne ſhowend. O aguer der mahaaly, az amwaal oo cheezy be ſarokeh rowvud, der behum reſanidun aan ſeyee bekar borend, o dozdaanra be ſezay, o malra be malek reſanend. O her jah ke Kooty ſaakhteh, aſbaab o agenaas bekherend o befroſhend, der amoor hiſſaaby imdaad o aeyanut nemayend; o nizde her kuſs ke az Beopareaan, Taanty ogueirah, tullub hiſſaaby daſhteh baſhend, az rooy huk o hiſſaab, be Gomaſhtahay oo aayed guerdanend, o neguzarend ke kiſſy ber Gomaſhtahayeſh taaddee koned; o be ellut Ghatbareh ogueirah, mozahem kiſhtyhay kanguee o keraaye ne ſhowend. O neez be arz akdus arſe Alla reſanidend, "ke der Subaha, Dewaneeaan juz "Sunnud aſſul motabek be mohur Nazim o Dewan Subah, tullub mekonend; Sunnud Aſſul der her jah reſanidun duſhwaar eſt, omedwaar end "ke bemowjeb nukl be mohur Kazy ettebaar nemayend, o tullub Sunnud "aſſul nekonend, o beray motabek Nazim o Dewan mozahemut nereſanend. "O der Calcuttah Kooty Company mokurrer eſt, Talookdary Calcuttah o "Sootanutty o Govindpore Amleh Purgunneh Ameerabad ogueirah, Subeh "Bengala, ke az Zemindaraan az ſabek mokurrer eſt, yek hazaar o yek "ſud o nowvud o punge Rupeiah o ſheſh aneh, jumme aan, her ſaal waſel "meſazed, o ſee o heſht Deeh bejumme heſht hazaar o yek ſud o beeſt o "yek Rupeiah o heſht aneh moteſſil mowaaze muzkureh eſt, Talookdary "mowaazy muzkoor neez merhummut ſhowvud, ke jumme aanra, ſaal be

* Some deviation from the letters of the original has been found neceſſary in this reading for the ſake of the pronunciation.

† *Khuld Mokaan*, ſpeaking of the late Emperor, it means "*whoſe place is in Paradiſe.*" It is the cuſtom, out of reſpect, to leave a blank in the body of the grant, and to write theſe words at the top of the paper.

" ſaal, aayed Khazaneh mekurdeh baſhend." Hukm nisfut ſhiam izſadoor yaft, ke nukl be mohur Kazy alkazaat yettebar nemayend, o deehaty ke khreed nemoodeh end be duſtoor ſabek bahall, o Talookdary deguer mowaazy moltemezeh merhummut fermudeem, az malkaan khreed nemayend, o Dewaneeaan Subeh waguzarend. Neez iltemaas nemoodend " ke " az ahed ſaed moſaed, krub Huzzerut (*) aſkneh Alla derjaat " algenaan, ber zer ſikkeh Chinapatan der khezain Subaha, Kuſſoor me- " gueerend; hal anke zer nokreh muzkoor be duſtoor Bunder Surat eſt, " lehaza Bundahah nokſaan mekoſhend; Hukm wala ſader guerded, ke " ber tukdeer ginis Alla, be duſtoor Bunder Surat ogueirah mozahem " neſhowend, o her kuſs as Nowkeraan Company motalebhdar baſhed, o " jay berkhaſteh berouved, nizd Serdar Kooty befereeſtend; o be ellut " Fowzdary ogueirah aboaab mamnooeh ke Gomaſhtaha o Amleh Company " be ſubbub aan periſhaany mekoſhend, motarez neguerdend." Hukm mohukam moalla, iznefaaz yaft ke az ſunneh punjum Jaloos mobarek, aguer nokreh maſkook Chinapatan, miſſel ſikkeh Bunder mobarek Surat baſhed, be ellut kuſſoor mozahem neſhowend, o her kuſs az Nowkeraan motalebhdar baſhed, o jay berkhaſteh berouved, be duſt awurdeh haoaleh Serdar Kooty nemayend; o be ellut akhuz aboaab mamnooeh mozahemmut nereſanend. O neez maarooz daſhtend, " ke der Bengala, o Behár o Oriſſa, Kootyhay " Company mokurrer eſt, o der jahay deguer Kootyhay khaend kurd; " omedwaar end, her ja ke Kooty mokurrur ſazend, chehel Begah Zemeen " az Serkar (‡) beray Kootyha merhummut ſhowvud; o " Jehaazaat baaze oukaat be ſubbub Tufaan baad, der benader, bekenareh " meoftend, o ſhikuſteh megurdend, Hukaam benader, az rah zullum, " malra zubdt menemayend, o baze ja charum hiſſeh mekhaend; o der " Jezeerah Bombay motaalekeh Ingrez, ſikkeh Fringuee raage eſt, be " duſtoor Chinapatan ſikkeh mobarek maſkook meſhoodeh baſhed."—— Hukm Jehan-motae, lazem Alla tebae, be iz ſadoor peywuſt, ke be duſtoor Kootyhay deguer Subaha, baammul arend, o een jummayutra ke Kootyha der benader Badſhahy, o daad o ſuttud der ardooy moalla darend, o ferramin keramut een motezimmun reait mahſool haſel kurdehend, mohafezut mal Jehaazaat ſhikeſteh o tubbahy ſhoodeh eenha, bewajebby mekurdeh baſhend; o der Jezeerah Bombay ſikkeh mobarek maſkook o be duſtoor momalek mahroozeh raage ſhowvud, o der jammae amoor, ber tubbuk een manſhoor, Iamei alnoor, baammul awurdeh, az khelſaaf Hukm mohukam moalla, mohterruz o mojtnub baſhend, o her ſaal Sunnud mogedud netullubend: der een bab takeed akeed danend. Beeſt o huſtum Mohurrum al haraam, ſaal punjum, az Jaloos mumnut manoos, ſemt tahreer yaft.

Bereſaleh, &c. &c.

* *Khuld Mokaan* as before.

† *Wala*, The exalted; inſerted alſo on the top of the paper for the reaſon before aſſigned.

THE

THE *TRANSLATION.

A copy of the Firmaun of *Bengal*, *Bahar*, and *Oriſſa*, viz.

THE governors, agents, perſons engaged in public affairs, jagueerdárs, fowzdárs, collectors of the revenues and of the tolls, and the zemindars, preſent and future, who in the Subah of *Bengal*, *Bahar*, and *Oriſſa*, the port of *Hoogly*, and other ports of the ſaid Subah, are in hopes of the Imperial favour; KNOW, That at this time, attended with conqueſt and cloſed with victory, Mr. *John Surman* and *Cogee Serhaud*, gomaſtahs for the *Engliſh* Company, have cauſed to be repreſented to the court which diſpenſes juſtice and cheriſhes equity, "That by the order of (the protected by the divine clemency, ſupported by "heavenly grace, ſprinkled with the mercies of the Creator, the only God;) "the late Emperor (whoſe place is in Paradiſe, eternally happy; may God "reward him with his glorious favour!) as well as by former grants, the "cuſtoms of the *Engliſh* Company, in the empire protected by heaven (ex- "cept at the port of *Surat*) are forgiven; and as in the port of *Hoogly* they "pay yearly into the high treaſury of the *Sircar* three thouſand rupees, by "way of tribute, in lieu of duties, they are in hopes, that according to for- "mer grants, the auguſt Firmaun may continue this indulgence."——The order, which ſubdues the world, and brings the univerſe to ſubjection, therefore now iſſues forcibly abroad, that the goods and effects which their gomaſtahs may bring or carry within the ports, borders, and quarters of the Subahs, by land or by water, ye knowing the duties thereof to be exempted, let them have their free choice of buying and ſelling; receive yearly the ſtipulated ſum of three thouſand rupees, and beſides that, let them not be moleſted on any account. And if in any place any of their effects be ſtolen, let the officers endeavour diligently to recover them, and deliver the thieves to puniſhment, and the effects to the owner. And wherever they build a factory (or warehouſe) and buy and ſell goods and merchandize, be aſſiſtant and favourable to them in reaſonable affairs. And upon whatever perſon from among the merchants, weavers, *&c.* they may have any juſt demand, cauſe juſtice to be done to their gomaſtahs agreeably to equity and the account; and ſuffer not that any perſon injure their gomaſtahs, or under pretence of ghatbarry, *&c.* impede their boats, hired or their own.——They have alſo repreſented to the moſt holy and exalted court, "That in the "Subahs the dewans demand the original patent confirmed under the ſeal of "the nazim and provincial dewan; that as it is difficult to convey the ori- "ginal patent to every place, they hope that credit may be given to a copy "under the ſeal of the kazy, and that no demand may be made of the ori- "ginal patent, or any impediments occaſioned on account of the nazim or

* There are no leſs than three tranſlations of this Firmaun recorded on the Reports of the Houſe of Commons, vol. 3d, pages 196, 202, and 473, which are all different from one another. We have here adhered to the original as literally as we could, but conſcious of our own inſufficiency, particularly in the *Arabick* words, we muſt refer our oriental readers to the original, which has been annexed for that purpoſe.

" the dewan's confirmation; alſo that there is a factory of the Company eſta-
" bliſhed at *Calcutta*, that the talookdary of *Calcutta*, *Sootanutty*, and *Go-*
" *vindpore* in the diſtrict of the Purgunnah of *Ameerabad*, &c. of the Subah
" of *Bengal*, which is of the zemindárs * of old, yields annually the ſum of
" one thouſand one hundred and ninety-five rupees, and ſix annas, and
" there are thirty-eight villages, whereof the amount of eight thouſand one
" hundred and twenty-one rupees, and eight annas, is the ſettled revenue
" according to the ſtipulation; they requeſt therefore, that they may be alſo
" indulged with the talookdary agreeably to the ſtipulation, and pay the
" amount thereof, year by year, into the treaſury."——The order replete with juſtice is therefore iſſued, that credit be given to the copy under the ſeal of the kazy of kazys, and that they remain with the villages which they have bought, according to former cuſtom; and moreover, agreeably to their petition, we are graciouſly pleaſed to permit, that they purchaſe the talookdary from the owners, and that the dewans of the Subah may paſs the ſame. They have likewiſe humbly repreſented, " That in the time of (the
" ſupported by the great Supporter, favoured by the Almighty, whoſe place,
" *&c.* may he be cauſed to dwell in the higheſt ſeats of Paradiſe) the late
" Emperor, an allowance (*cuſſore*) was taken in the treaſuries of the Subahs,
" on the coins ſtruck at *Chinapatan*, and now ſince the ſaid coins are ſtruck
" after the manner of the port of *Surat*, they (the ſlaves) ſuffer a loſs, and
" they therefore pray the high order may be iſſued, that agreeably to the
" cuſtom of the port of *Surat*, &c. there be no impediment in the ſtandard
" coins; and that whoever be indebted to the Company's ſervants, and run
" away, they may ſend him to the chief of the factory; and that they may
" not be expoſed to inſult, under pretence of the fowzdary and other pro-
" hibited articles, on account of which the gomaſtahs and dependents of the
" company are much diſtreſſed." The poſitive and ſublime order is therefore iſſued, that from the fifth year of the fortunate reign, if the coin of *Chinapatan* be ſtruck like the coin of the proſperous port of *Surat*, ye do not moleſt them under pretence of *cuſſore*; and whoever be indebted to the ſervants, and run away, ye take him and deliver him up to the chief of the factory, and do not moleſt them under pretence of their taking the prohibited articles. They have likewiſe repreſented, " That there are eſtabliſhed
" factories of the Company in *Bengal*, *Bahar*, and *Oriſſa*, and as they want
" to ſettle other factories in various places, they are in hopes, that wherever
" they eſtabliſh a factory, they may be favoured from the Sircar with forty
" begas of ground for their factories; alſo, that by reaſon of tempeſts ſome-
" times their ſhips are caſt on ſhore near the ports, and are wrecked, and the
" governors of the ports oppreſſively ſeize their effects, and in ſeveral places
" demand the ſhare of one fourth; and they pray, that in the iſland of *Bom-*
" *bay*, where *Fringy* (*Portugueze*) coins are current, the fortunate coins may

* From the recital of this part of the petition of the deputies, which in the original is quite unintelligible, it appears as if they had induſtriouſly involved this paſſage in obſcurity, purpoſely to impoſe on the Emperor, and lay a foundation for depriving the ancient zemindárs about *Calcutta*, of their talookdary and the thirty-eight villages; which events were afterwards wrongfully effected under ſanction of this Firmaun.

" be

"be ſtruck in the manner of *Chinapatan*."——Therefore the world-ſubduing-order, which muſt neceſſarily be obeyed, is iſſued, that ye tranſact their affairs as in other factories, and that ye take all neceſſary care to preſerve the effects of the wrecked or ſtranded ſhipping of theſe able people who have got factories in the Imperial ports, who tranſact buſineſs at the ſublime court, and who have obtained our munificent Firmauns of exemption from duties. And in the iſland of *Bombay* let the fortunate coins be current after the cuſtom of the Empire, and in all things conforming to the reſplendent grant, dilligently avoid diſobeying this auguſt command, and do not demand a new patent every year: in this point be ſtrictly punctual. Written on the 27th of the ſacred month *Moburrum*, in the fifth year of the proſperous reign——(the 6th *January* 1717).

By the command of, * *&c. &c. &c.*

NUM. III.

COPY of a Letter† of Complaints againſt the Trade of the Europeans *in* Bengal, *as ſent from the Governor of* Hoogly *to the Court at* Murſhedabad *in* 1728. *Received by the Company in* England, *per* Montague, *the 5th* Auguſt 1728.

IT is cuſtomary upon every new king's acceſſion to the throne, and upon every ſubahdár and dewan's acceſſion, for the *Europeans* to get new firmauns and new perwanahs to carry on their buſineſs, and to give a preſent; for which reaſon I ſend an account of the *European* nations, that, as it is now the time for diſpatching their ſhips, if they are dealt hard with, it will be for the advantage of the king and ſubahdár, *viz.*

The *Engliſh*, in *Aurengzebe*'s time, obtained a firmaun excepting them from all cuſtoms, in lieu of which a peſhcuſh of three thouſand rupees was ſettled, which they annually paid into the treaſury at *Hoogly*, ſince which they have not had either firmaun or perwanah. They carry on their mercantile affairs in an unjuſt and unprecedented manner, by which the king's treaſury is leſſened. The firmaun they procured in *Furrukhſeer*'s time *has never been ſeen*, nor ever had they a perwanah from the Nabob for carrying on their buſineſs.

The *Dutch*, in *Aurengzebe*'s time, obtained a firmaun granting leave to trade, paying three one-half *per cent.* into the treaſury at *Hoogly*. In *Shah Allum*'s time, they obtained a firmaun for paying two one-half *per cent.* cuſtoms; conformable to which they obtained a perwanah from *Jaffier Khawn*,

* *Seyd Abdullah Khawn*, the Vizier, whoſe titles, which we have thought unneceſſary to be given, are inſerted in the original at length.

† See Reports, vol. 3d, page 206.

where-

when he was called *Muſſud Cooly Khawn*, by virtue of which they now carry on their buſineſs. Beſides this, they have had no other new perwanah, nor made any preſent to the king, or ſubahdár.

The *French*, in *Aurengzebe*'s time, obtained a firmaun, alſo the ſubahdár and dewan's perwanah; and, according to the *Dutch*, they paid four *per cent.* cuſtoms. And when the *Dutch* got the cuſtoms ſettled at two one-half *per cent.* they likewiſe got a perwanah from the Nabob to pay the ſame; beſides which, they had no other new perwanah, nor made any preſent to the king, or ſubahdár.

The *Oſtenders* have no firmaun. They have obtained *Jaffier Khawn*'s perwanah, by virtue of which they carry on their buſineſs.

The *Armenians* uſed formerly to pay five *per cent.* cuſtoms. In *Shah Allum*'s time they obtained a firmaun for paying no more than three one-half *per cent.* and, according to which firmaun, they have *Jaffier Khawn*'s perwanah, and now they carry on their buſineſs in *Calcutta* under the *Engliſh* protection; and thoſe of them that want a perwanah for *Surat*, come to *Hoogly* and get one, by which the king is a great ſufferer.

It has not been cuſtomary for *Europeans* to trade in ſalt. This year ſome of the *Engliſh* have ſent large quantities of ſalt to *Patna*, *without paying the cuſtom.* It has always been cuſtomary for the weavers to pay five *per cent.* on all * photaes, before they ſell any to *Europeans*; and now the *Engliſh*, contrary to cuſtom, in the adjacent towns of *Calcutta*, and in *Burdwan*, buy photaes, and carry them with their duſtucks, without paying the uſual cuſtoms. And *upon all goods that are bought and ſold in* Calcutta *they collect a duty*, by which the king is a great ſufferer.

It has not been cuſtomary for the *Europeans* to traffic in grain, *&c.* Eatables they uſed to have allowed them (by leave from hence) juſt a ſufficient quantity for their own food; and the *Engliſh* now buy grain in every place, and tranſport it on board their ſhips by way of merchandize, by which the king is a great ſufferer, and grain is made dear and ſcarce in this country.

All goods imported formerly by *Europeans* uſed to be ſold to the *Patna* merchants, *&c.* who uſed to pay the cuſtoms thereon; and for theſe ſeveral years the *Engliſh* ſend what goods they import to *Patna*, &c. aurungs, by which there is *no cuſtom paid here.* They pay a peſhcuſh of rupees three thouſand, *for the Company and other* Engliſhmen, by which the king is a great ſufferer.

And the *Dutch*, ever ſince they have had the cuſtoms ſettled at two one-half *per cent.* ſend their goods to *Patna* and other places, and do not ſell to thoſe who uſed to pay the cuſtoms here, by which the king is a great ſufferer.

Tranſcribed by *Thomas Fenwick.*——Examined with *A. Dawſon.*

* Coarſe cloths.

NUM.

NUM. IV.

COPY *of the Firſt Sketch of the* * *Plan of Colonel* James Mill, *in the Service of the Emperor of* Germany, *in the Year* 1746, *for an Expedition againſt* Bengal.

COLONEL *James Mill*, in the ſervice of his Imperial Majeſty, as grand Duke of *Tuſcany*, moſt humbly begs leave to repreſent, That the late Company eſtabliſhed at *Oſtend*, for opening and carrying on a trade to the *Eaſt Indies*, did, in order thereto, purchaſe two places in thoſe parts, namely, *Bankibazar* in the river of *Bengal*, and *Covelong* upon the coaſt of *Coromandel*, of the Nabob, or Viceroy for the *Mogul*; who being then in obedience to his ſovereign, was ſufficiently authorized ſo to diſpoſe of the ſame.

That, notwithſtanding the abolition of the ſaid Company, the ſaid two places remained in the poſſeſſion of his Imperial Majeſty, and after his deceaſe, in that of the Queen of *Hungary*, his univerſal heireſs, till about the year 1744; Monſieur *de Sconamil* being then commandant there, and deriving the ſupport of himſelf and his people from the revenues of the ſame, as alſo from the acknowledgments of ſuch as choſe to ſettle there under the protection of his flag.

That in this interval, the province of *Bengal*, which is perhaps the richeſt in the known world, having been torn from the *Mogul* by one of his rebel ſubjects, the uſurper then undertook alſo to reduce *Bankibazar*, one of the ſaid two ſettlements ſo belonging to her *Hungarian* Majeſty; and after ſeveral unſucceſsful attempts, and a great diverſity of incidents, did force the ſaid governor and his people to abandon the ſaid place.

That at the time of this forced dereliction, the ſaid commandant had demands on the ſaid uſurper for the loſſes and injuries he had ſuſtained, to ſuch an amount, that the general of the forces ſent againſt him had, by the mediation of the *Dutch* governor of *Hoogly*, made him a previous offer of one hundred thouſand pounds ſterling, by way of recompence, and as the price of an accommodation. That, notwithſtanding this forced dereliction, the right to the ſaid places ſtill remaining as before in the Empreſs Queen, her Imperial Majeſty, by an authentic act, made it over to the Emperor her conſort, as Grand Duke of *Tuſcany*. That his ſaid Imperial Majeſty, reſolving to avail himſelf of that right, in a manner moſt equitable in itſelf, and leaſt exceptionable to his allies, by reclaiming the ſaid ſettlement, and demanding ſuitable conſiderations for the time elapſed and loſſes ſuſtained, did give a ſuitable commiſſion to the ſaid *James Mill*, who, in conſequence thereof, did, in the year 1746, purchaſe three ſhips in the river *Thames*, to be employed under his command in the ſaid ſervice.

That a courſe of miſtakes, miſinformations, and miſapprehenſions, which are too well known to need repetition, have hitherto retarded the enterpriſe.

* This plan was propoſed long before news was received in *England* of the ſucceſſes of the *French* in *India* in the year 1746.

That

That his Imperial Majeſty, as Grand Duke of *Tuſcany*, being nevertheleſs as deſirous as ever to proſecute an affair in which both his honour and his intereſt are equally concerned, the ſaid *James Mill* has undertaken, and does undertake to ſhew,

Firſt, That *England*, by joining with his Imperial Majeſty in the adventure, without appearing to do ſo, may be an immenſe gainer.

Secondly, That the proſecution of the ſaid adventure by his Imperial Majeſty can be productive of no damage or detriment to *England*.

Thirdly, That in caſe it is proſecuted by neither, it will be proſecuted by others, in whoſe hands it may be ſo improved, as, at the long run, to prove the ruin of the *Eaſt India* trade, the conſequences of which need not be explained.

And, *Laſtly*, The ſaid *James Mill* moſt humbly and earneſtly requeſts, that ſome perſon of probity and intelligence may be appointed to confer with him on the premiſes, that ſuch reſolutions may be taken thereon, as reaſon, equity, and policy (the preſent views, deſigns, and endeavours of *France* being duly conſidered) require.

(Signed) JAMES MILL.

NUM. V.

COPY of Colonel James Mill's *Scheme for an Expedition, under the Imperial Flag, for dethroning the Nabob of* Bengal. *Drawn up on his hearing of the Loſs of* Madraſs *in the Year* 1746.

IT has been aſſerted by many, it has been proved by Monſieur *Bernier* (in his diſcourſe of *Hindoſtan*, addreſſed to Monſieur *Colbert*) and it is known to the writer of this memoir, that all the gold and ſilver of the world, collected by, and negotiated in trade, is at laſt ſwallowed up in the *Eaſt Indies*, and particularly in the province of *Bengal*; where great quantities are annually exchanged by merchants, for the commodities and manufactures of thoſe parts, and from thence they never return.

The whole country of *Hindoſtan*, or empire of the Great Mogul, is, and ever has been, nevertheleſs, in a ſtate ſo feeble and defenceleſs, that it is almoſt a miracle that no prince of *Europe*, with a maritime power at command, has not as yet thought of making ſuch acquiſitions there, as at one ſtroke would put him and his ſubjects in poſſeſſion of infinite wealth, and of ſuch other advantages, in point of commerce, as might counter-balance the mines of *Braſil* and *Peru*.

The

The policy of the Mogul's court is bad, his military worſe, and as to a marine power, to command and protect his coaſts, he has none at all. Hence his empire, though vaſt, is expoſed to perpetual revolts. His ports and rivers are acceſſible to any foreign power that is diſpoſed to viſit them, and conqueſt might be made, or contributions raiſed in his dominions with as much eaſe as the *Spaniards* overwhelmed the naked *Indians* of *America*.

The ſettlements which the *Engliſh*, *French*, *Dutch*, and other nations hold on the coaſt of *Coromandel*, and in *Bengal*, &c. have been made partly by force and partly by treaty; but force, of ſuch a viſible ſuperiority as amounted to the ſame thing, has been principally relied on. And, as on the one hand it is notorious, that the advantages juſt now obtained by the *French* on the coaſt of *Coromandel*, is owing to ſuch reliance, together with the credit they eſtabliſhed by the reduction of *Madraſs*; ſo it is equally notorious, on the other hand, that the ſpiritleſs conduct of the *Engliſh Eaſt India* Company, has rendered them ſo contemptible in the eyes of the provincial governors there, that they have of late turned the tables, and raiſed contributions upon them; as can be fully proved if occaſion ſhould require it.

The province, or kingdom of *Bengal*, is at preſent under the dominion of a rebel ſubject of the Mogul's, who has in poſſeſſion a treaſure amounting to *at leaſt thirty millions Sterling*, and his annual revenue, if no more than what was formerly drawn from that province by the Mogul, amounts to about two millions. But *Bengal*, though not to be reduced by the power of the Mogul, is equally indefenſible with the reſt of *Hindoſtan* on the ſide of the ocean, and conſequently may be forced out of the rebel's hands, with all its wealth, which is incredibly vaſt, without any violation of right; and if forced out of his hands under a declaratory intention of reſtoring it to the Mogul, inſtead of furniſhing matter of complaint, it would be a matter of ſo much merit, as might juſtly challenge any acknowledgment and any conſideration.

Fifteen hundred, or at moſt two thouſand regulars, with ſhipping and ſtores in proportion, are ſufficient for this undertaking; which the writer of this memoir aſſerts, on his own knowledge of *India*, derived from a reſidence of twenty years in thoſe parts, and from ſuch inquiries and reſearches as will authorize him to anſwer for the ſucceſs of it with his head. The inſults offered to the flag of his Imperial Majeſty at *Bankibazar* by the ſaid rebel, and the damage his governor and people ſuſtained there, afford the moſt juſtifiable pretence for ſuch an enterprize. And both the inclination and intereſt of his Imperial Majeſty induce him to invite his Majeſty of *Great Britain* to become a joint adventurer with him in it; the Emperor to furniſh the troops, and three ſhips towards the expedition, *Great Britain* proviſions, ammunition, and ſuch additional ſhipping as ſhall be found requiſite.—— That it is alſo the intereſt of his *Britannic* Majeſty, and the *Britiſh* nation, to embrace this overture is manifeſt, on the very face of this memoir. But over and above their proportion of ſo immenſe a booty, and the yet greater advantage that muſt redound to their trade, from ſuch an eſtabliſhment as they would henceforth be maſters of, there are yet other conſiderations of ſo urgent a nature, as would render the refuſal of it inexcuſable, if ſuch an

expreſſion may be allowed. Namely, firſt, The triumphant ſituation of the *French* on the coaſt of *Coromandel*, and a moral certainty that, as ſoon as they find themſelves at eaſe there, they will make that very offer to the Mogul above ſuggeſted. Secondly, That that offer will be gladly accepted of. Thirdly, That whenſoever they ſhall make their effort, whether in the Mogul's name or their own, their ſucceſs will be infallible. And, fourthly, That in ſuch caſe they will be maſters of all the wealth and all the trade of the *Indies*.

And this being the truth of things, as it really is, it may ſeem ſuperfluous to add any thing more to evince the inſtant and preſſing neceſſity of ſuch an undertaking to the court of *England* without further loſs of time, in order not only to prevent a vigilant and dangerous rival, but even for their own preſervation. But foraſmuch as intereſted, ignorant, or irreſolute perſons may affect to doubt the aſſurances herein given concerning the practicability of it, and conſequently to be in pain for the intereſt of the *Engliſh Eaſt India* Company in caſe of a miſcarriage, it may be requiſite to add: That it being propoſed to make uſe of the Imperial flag in the expedition, and till the blow is ſtruck, to act in the name of his Imperial Majeſty only, it follows, that the Company cannot be made reſponſible for the attempt on any pretence whatſoever; the ſeveral flags of the ſeveral powers of *Europe* being as well known and diſtinguiſhed in *India* as here. Secondly, As to any jealouſies that may be entertained of a new rival intereſt in point of commerce, his Imperial Majeſty deſires to employ no other port in that commerce beſides *Legborn*, nor to ſupply any countries with *Eaſt India* commodities, but ſuch as communicate with the *Mediterranean*; which, as the cuſtom-houſe books of *London* manifeſt, will in no material reſpect interfere with any branch of the *Engliſh* re-exportation, though it poſſibly may with that of *France*; and mediately, if not immediately, loſs to *France* is gain to *England*.

Thus *England* has nothing to fear, and every thing to hope from ſuch an enterprize. But the ſecret muſt be kept inviolably, and all poſſible precautions muſt be taken, leſt the *French* ſhould either get the ſtart in their preparations, or take their meaſures to fruſtrate a proceeding which they could not, however, have the face to complain of, becauſe it is warranted by their own proceedings on the coaſt of *Coromandel*.

It follows, that the *Engliſh Eaſt India* Company cannot be adviſed with, either on the expediency of the meaſure, or the methods of purſuing it; for no Company can keep a ſecret: and as to that Company, the terrors and *diſtractions which their own ill conduct, and the incumbrance reſulting from it have ſcattered amongſt them*, render it extremely difficult, if not impoſſible for them to reaſon ſenſibly, or take any firm reſolution upon it.

And if it ſhould be objected, that the excluſive rights granted to them by parliament make it neceſſary to adviſe with them on every ſuch point, it may be anſwered, that this meaſure is a meaſure of government, and conſequently belongs only to the prerogative royal; and that, in the convention which muſt be formed and executed as a preparatory to it, all the proviſions may be made in their favour, which thoſe excluſive rights entitle them to, or his Majeſty's gracious indulgence may farther gratify them with.

Laſtly,

Laſtly, The writer of this memoir, over and above the honour he enjoys of holding a colonel's commiſſion in the ſervice of his Imperial Majeſty, thinks it incumbent on him to repeat, in ſupport of his credit, character, and veracity, that he is already poſſeſſed of all the informations neceſſary for the conduct of ſo great a deſign; that he knows, circumſtantially and minutely, *where all the ſeveral maſſes of treaſure lie, and how they are to be approached and ſecured.* That he has even the means in his hands of correſponding with thoſe who have the ſaid treaſure in their charge. That by his own perſonal credit in the province of *Bengal*, and the uſe he purpoſes to make of it, he hopes and preſumes, he ſhall be able to double the ſtrength he may carry with him almoſt as ſoon as he gets on ſhore. That many of the eminent merchants of *London*, who are at all acquainted with the real ſtate of the Company's affairs in *India*, are alſo acquainted with his qualifications for this ſervice; and that many of them, ſince the arrival of the late advices from *Coromandel*, have openly lamented that he was not employed in it ſome years ago, *when the deſign was firſt entertained, and a diſpoſition was actually made for carrying it into execution.*

(Signed) JAMES MILL.

NUM. VI.

COPY of a Letter from the Court of East India *Directors to the Honourable* Henry Vanſittart, *Eſq; their Governor at* Fort William *in* Bengal. *Dated,* London, *9th* February 1764.

To the Honourable *Henry Vanſittart*, Eſq; Preſident and Governor at *Fort William*, and to him only: But in his Abſence, to the Preſident and Governor and the reſt of the Select Committee for the time being.

WITH great concern, though we cannot ſay with much ſurprize, we learn by advices juſt brought us by the *Lapwing* from *Fort St. George*, that *Bengal* is again become a ſcene of bloodſhed and confuſion.

Without ſtaying to comment on the cauſes (they are but too apparent) of this melancholy event, which the accounts we have of late received of the violence, imprudence, and diſtraction of your councils, gave us but too much reaſon to expect, we turn our thoughts to an object that more immediately calls for our attention, the reſtoring the tranquillity of the country, and reſcuing our ſettlements from the preſent danger. We hope indeed, that theſe diſorders will be effectually quieted long before you can receive any orders from us, but leſt it ſhould happen otherwiſe we haſten this diſpatch.

It is our earneſt deſire, that Mr. *Vanſittart*, whoſe inclination to quit the preſidency we are ſorry to learn, will at leaſt continue in it until the peace of the country is thoroughly re-eſtabliſhed. In his abilities, diſcretion, and attention to the intereſts of the company, we repoſe the moſt perfect confidence; and to him, if that deſirable end ſhould not be attained ere this reaches you, we give full powers to purſue whatever means he judges moſt proper to attain it; wiſhing him however, in all caſes, where it can be conveniently done, to conſult the Council at large, or at leaſt the Select Committee, though the power of determining is to be in him alone.

If, contrary to our wiſhes and expectations, Mr. *Vanſittart* ſhould have left the government, we hope Mr. *Spencer* is ere now in *Bengal*, and will, in that event, have taken his place. But as we know not what accidents may happen, nor upon whom, in the chances of war, the government may devolve, it is our order, that in caſe of Mr. *Vanſittart*'s reſignation, his ſucceſſor, the preſident for the time being, do, in concert and with the concurrence of the Select Committee, but not otherwiſe, exerciſe the ſame powers which we have before given to Mr. *Vanſittart* ſingly, and this is to continue until you have our further orders.

The re-eſtabliſhment of peace and tranquillity being our principal object, the ſuggeſtions we are about to add are not to be regarded as meant to controul any meaſures which may have been, or may be found, neceſſary to be taken in order to attain it, in the exigencies that may have ariſen, or may yet ariſe; we deſire, however, to communicate to you our ſentiments and wiſhes upon this ſubject.

Firſt then, As *we entirely approved of the revolution in favour of* Coſſim Ally Khawn, and now do not find ſufficient reaſon to repent of that meaſure, on account of any of the ſteps that unfortunate prince has ſince been induced to take, we could wiſh to hear that means have been, or may be found to accommodate the preſent quarrel, if it has not gone too far, without depriving him of a government, in which, if thoſe hoſtilities had not happened, we ſhould have thought ourſelves engaged both in intereſt and honour to ſupport him.

Secondly, If by the fate of war an accommodation with *Coſſim Ally* is become impoſſible, or, after the quarrel has proceeded ſo far, is found to be improper, we ſhall ſtill hope that ſome fitter perſon may be found than *Jaffier Ally*; one whoſe government would be more acceptable to every body concerned in it. Indeed, according to our ideas, a perſon more unfit cannot be found; and it is not without extreme ſurprize we learn, that new engagements have been entered into with a man whoſe *incapacity*, *cruelty*, *and perfidy* have been already experienced; all the reaſons for depoſing him applying with more force againſt his reſtoration, and ſtill further ſtrengthened as they will, on a moment's reflection, appear to be, by the ſenſe which he cannot fail to entertain of the ill uſage he muſt think he met with from us in that ſtep, and others that have been taken ſince. For all ſuch, his own diſpoſition and the manners of his country, will probably prompt him, if ever he has the power, to take a ſevere revenge.

There

There is beſides an obvious impropriety in ſetting up, pulling down, and again reſtoring the ſame man, which cannot fail to be repreſented to the diſadvantage of the Company, and is, in truth, a matter of juſt imputation; ſince it is impoſſible theſe ſeveral ſteps can be conſiſtently juſtified. For all which reaſons, we ſhould have hoped he would have been the laſt perſon thought of on this occaſion. We do not, however, decide on this ſtep, not having yet heard the reaſons why it was taken; nor, be thoſe reaſons good or bad, do we mean to involve the Company in a new revolution. If, therefore, the peace of the country ſhould have been re-eſtabliſhed, and the government quietly ſettled under *Jaffier Ally*, or if your meaſures have ſo far proceeded on that plan that you cannot ſafely retreat, it will, in that caſe, be proper to acquieſce and rather await (being on your guard and endeavouring to avert) the miſchiefs which we think there will be reaſon to fear from him, than to bring on thoſe miſchiefs ourſelves, by embroiling the country a-new. But we cannot too ſtrongly expreſs our wiſhes, that an accommodation with *Coſſim Ally* may have taken place; or, if a change in the government ſhould have become unavoidable, that *ſome other, and not* Jaffier Ally, may have been appointed his ſucceſſor.

We are,

Your loving friends,

(Signed)	H. CRAB BOULTON.	JOHN DARRIEN.
	J. PURLING.	LAU. SULIVAN.
	G. ROOKE.	GEORGE AMYAND.
	JOHN MANSHIP.	JOHN BOYD.
	JOHN HARRISON.	CHA. CUTTS.
	ROB. BURROW.	FRED. PIGOU.
	HENRY HADLEY.	RICH. WARNER.
	JOHN BROWNE.	TIMOTHY TULLIE.
	W. WEBBER.	W. SNELL.
	CHARLES CHAMBERS.	

(Examined) G. W.

NUM. VII.

COPY of the Memorial of George Johnſtone *and* George Dempſter, *Eſqrs. to the Court of* Eaſt India *Directors, remonſtrating againſt their Appointment of a Select Committee, with extraordinary Powers for their Government in* Bengal. *Dated the 30th of* May 1764.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors for the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies.*

The Memorial of *George Johnſtone* and *George Dempſter*, Proprietors of *Eaſt India* Stock,

SHEWETH,

THAT your memorialiſts are informed, that at the laſt Court of Directors a reſolution was agreed to by a very ſmall majority, in the following words: "That, in order to reſtore peace and tranquillity in *Bengal*, full "powers be given to Lord *Clive*, Mr. *Sumner*, Brigadier-general *Carnac*, Mr. "*Verelſt*, and Mr. *Sykes*, to purſue whatever means they judge moſt proper "to attain the ſame."

That it appears to your memorialiſts, that the ſaid reſolution is deſtructive of the conſtitution of the *Eaſt India* Company, which in every circumſtance has endeavoured to provide, by the number of perſons directed to be intruſted with the management of its affairs, that no undue influence ſhould prevail at any of its boards. Upon this principle the charter has extended the number of Directors to twenty-four, to be choſen annually, and ſubject to rotation; upon the ſame principle twelve counſellors have been appointed to each preſidency.

That as Lord *Clive* declared in the moſt ſolemn manner in the General Court of Proprietors, "That the Company had nothing to fear from the "aſcendency of their military ſervants over the civil, ſince only one officer "was to have a ſeat in Council;"—That as his lordſhip's friends in the direction did, on all occaſions before the laſt election, expreſs, in terms equally ſtrong and ſatisfactory, their ſenſe of the danger and inexpediency of conſtituting Secret Committees with extended powers either at home or abroad; that as General *Carnac* and Mr. *Verelſt*, in their letters to the Directors condemn ſuch Committees, and aſcribe to them all the miſchiefs which have of late befallen our ſettlements in *Bengal*; that as the extraordinary powers intruſted with Mr. *Vanſittart*, one of our civil officers, at a time when the Council was full of diſtraction, and our affairs in the moſt critical ſituation, was one great ground of oppoſition to the late Court of Directors; your memorialiſts cannot, after all theſe circumſtances hear, without aſtoniſhment, of a

Committee

Committee being appointed for *Bengal*, with more ample, dangerous, and diſcretionary powers than any ever known heretofore in your ſervice.

That former Secret Committees, ſo much complained of by Lord *Clive*, Mr. *Rous*, Mr. *Dudley*, Mr. *Savage*, and many others of the Directors, were limited to matters requiring ſecrecy, and relating chiefly to negociations with the country powers, but ſtill ſubject to the review of the Council; whereas the preſent Committee are ſubject to no check or controul; and, by tranſacting the whole buſineſs of the Company, will reduce the other members of the Council to mere cyphers.

That the reaſon given for ſending Mr. *Spencer* back to *Bombay*, was to produce unanimity in the ſettlement of *Bengal*, by preventing thoſe heart-burnings which an unjuſt ſuperſeſſion naturally excites. That this was but a ſingle inſtance of injuſtice to your ſervants; but the appointing of a general over Major *Adams*, to whoſe gallantry and abilities the Company owes its preſervation; the appointing Mr. *Verelſt* and Mr. *Sykes* over their ſeniors, and a Committee of five over the whole Council, is a ſtring of moſt cruel and unheard-of ſuperſeſſions, which will add civil diſſention to the calamities of foreign war, and muſt deprive Lord *Clive* of that very aſſiſtance which he requires in his letter from experienced ſervants.

That by inveſting thoſe five gentlemen with ſuch ample powers, there is the greateſt reaſon to expect your once flouriſhing and commercial ſettlement of *Bengal*, will become purely military; for without ſuppoſing any of the three civil members of the Committee, who owe their appointment merely to Lord *Clive*'s recommendation, to be under his lordſhip's influence, yet ſhould Mr. *Verelſt* remain at *Chittigong*, which no doubt he will wiſh, or Mr. *Sykes* obtain a Chiefſhip, to which it is natural to ſuppoſe he aſpires; or ſhould any of the three gentlemen die, in that caſe Lord *Clive* will have a caſting vote, and General *Carnac* and he be an abſolute majority in the Committee.

That one of the reaſons given by Lord *Clive* why he would not act in the ſervice of the Company was, the undue influence which he alledged Mr. *Sulivan* had aſſumed. His lordſhip's words were, as uſual, ſtrong, "All "men (he ſaid) were equal to him, provided Mr. *Sulivan* had not the lead." His lordſhip likewiſe added a ſaying, the juſtneſs of which we have lived to experience, "With ſome men words and actions are different." For now that Mr. *Sulivan*'s influence does not exiſt, firſt, his lordſhip declares, he will not go to *India* unleſs veſted with the very powers he had condemned as illegal, when intruſted with Mr. *Vanſittart*; and, ſecondly, his lordſhip's friends deviſe an expedient of a Committee equally arbitrary and dangerous.

That the appointing of this Committee is illegal and invalid, as the commiſſion of the government under the great ſeal of the Company directs, that the whole government ſhall be conducted by a majority of the Council; and your memorialiſts are informed, by perſons learned in the law, that no act of the Directors can invalidate that authority, without paſſing under the ſeal of the Company, and revoking the former commiſſions.

That the charter of juſtice in *Bengal* ſeems to be ſtruck at by thoſe new regulations, "*Giving full powers to purſue every means*," &c.

That

That thoſe regulations are injurious to the rights and intereſts of the Proprietors, by intruſting their concerns with five (or more properly with one) when twelve counſellors are appointed by the conſtitution of the Company.

That the very intention of fixing ſo large a number to compoſe the Council, is to avoid that combination which may be expected from a few. But where theſe few are evidently the choice of a governor, whoſe wealth and ambition render him a proper object of jealouſy; where the majority are already under his influence; where the inſult offered the other counſellors muſt produce great diſcontent; where no one good purpoſe can be alledged; where a thouſand evils may be foreſeen, and where the military are to approve their own rewards, contrary to the intention of the General Court of Proprietors; it is humbly hoped the Court of Directors will not, merely to gratify the ambition of one man, create ſo great an innovation in the affairs of the Company; but that they will be pleaſed to permit the power to reſt in the Governor and Council, where experience has ſhewn it is leaſt liable to be abuſed, and where the conſtitution of this Company has regularly placed it.

(Signed) GEORGE JOHNSTONE.
GEORGE DEMPSTER.

NUM. VIII.

COPY of the Sixty-ſeventh Paragraph of the General Letter from the Court of East India *Directors to their Governor and Council in* Bengal, *on their Appointment of Lord* Clive *and the Seleſt Committee. Dated,* June *1ſt* 1764.

THE General Court of Proprietors having, on account of the critical ſituation of the Company's affairs in *Bengal*, requeſted Lord *Clive* to take upon him the ſtation of Preſident, and the command of the Company's military forces there, his lordſhip has been appointed Preſident and Governor accordingly, as mentioned in the preceding part of this letter.

The intention of the General Court in deſiring Lord *Clive* to go to *Bengal* was, that, by his lordſhip's character and influence, peace and tranquillity might be the eaſier reſtored and eſtabliſhed in that Subahſhip. In order, therefore, to anſwer theſe purpoſes in a manner that we apprehend may prove moſt effectual, we have thought proper to appoint a Committee on this occaſion, conſiſting of his lordſhip, Mr. *William Brightwell Sumner*, Brigadier-general *Carnac*, alſo Meſſrs. *Harry Verelſt* and *Francis Sykes*; to whom we do hereby give full power to purſue whatever means they ſhall judge moſt

moſt proper to attain thoſe deſirable ends. But however in all caſes, where it can be done conveniently, the Council at large is to be conſulted by the ſaid Committee, though the power of determining is to be in that Committee alone. We further direct, that as ſoon as peace and tranquillity are reſtored and eſtabliſhed in the Subahſhip of *Bengal*, then the ſaid extraordinary powers are immediately to ceaſe, and the ſaid Committee be diſſolved.

NUM. IX.

COPY of Mr. Harry Verelſt's *Minute relative to the Employment of* European *in Preference to* Indian *Agents, or Gomaſtahs, in* Bengal; *recorded on the* Calcutta *Conſultations of the 21ſt* July *1764.*

MR. *Verelſt*, after having carefully peruſed the conſultations of the 30th of *April*, and 3d inſtant, with the papers therein referred to, tranſmitted to him by the ſecretary by order of the board, begs leave to remark as follows:

From the general opinion the board have formed in their latter conſultation, it appears to him, that the debates have taken their riſe from Mr. *Jekyll*'s complaints againſt Mr. *Ivy*, an *European* agent, for having wrote an inſulting letter to him, and from the ill uſage that the zemindár of *Shahpore* had received from a gomaſtah of Mr. *Pollock*'s, another agent. But as the board ſeem not to have come to a determination, how far either the one or the other of theſe gentlemen has been culpable; and as the reſolution of the board to call down all *European* agents has been formed from an opinion of the ill behaviour of thoſe that have been employed; and as Mr. *Verelſt* is unacquainted with the different complaints made, he would have been glad to have heard the debates on Meſſrs. *Jekyll* and *Ivy*'s letters, (as their repreſentations are ſtrongly contradictory to each other) to have enabled him to have given his opinion more fully thereon. Therefore, ſhould he be deficient in what he may propoſe, he hopes the board will conſider how difficult it is to recommend a remedy where the diſeaſe is not thoroughly known.

Firſt, He is of opinion, that *European* agents, in any part of the country, acting with the approbation of the Preſident and Council of *Bengal*, are as much under the law as any perſon reſiding at any factory eſtabliſhed before or ſince the grant of his Majeſty's charter; for his Majeſty's intentions, as expreſſed in the beginning of the charter, ſeem to be for the benefit of all ſuch of his ſubjects as carry on their trade in any part within the limits preſcribed; which are ſet forth to be from the *Cape of Good Hope* to the Streights of *Magellan*. That no factory in the kingdoms is out of the limits of our own courts, every member of the board muſt be well ſatisfied, ſince a warrant

from the Mayor's Court was not long ſince ſent up, and executed on a gentleman in this place *. The ſame public power that authorizes an agent to trade in theſe countries, confirms to him, by that act, a protection for his life and property againſt every invader, through thoſe parts where the influence of ſuch power extends, and the agent becomes reciprocally anſwerable for his own conduct. It is not doubted, he preſumes, but that the board have a privilege of ſettling a factory, for the greater conveniencies of trade, in any part of theſe provinces that they may approve; and that on ſettling ſuch factory the members are ſtill under the law. If therefore, in a collective ſenſe, any number of gentlemen are thus qualified, and naturally continue ſubordinate to the laws of their country, be their reſidence in thoſe parts where it will, he hopes it will not be diſputed, but that the ſame ſubordination extends to any ſingle member, or to an agent publicly and fully authorized to trade in the ſame parts, (that is to ſay, by the ſuffrage of the board) as it does to this community. For equity muſt invariably be the ſame in a ſingle, as in a collective ſenſe; and his Majeſty's motive ſeems to have been, that his grant ſhould not be confined to any particular place or degree. Mr. *Verelſt*, therefore, thinks it would be an inconſiſtency to ſuppoſe, that his Majeſty could intend, that one part of his charter, which conſtitutes the Mayor's Court of *Calcutta*, ſhould have a power of trying all cauſes of *meum* and *tuum*, where the property of any of his ſubjects was concerned, be the debt contracted (and the perſons preſent) in any place within the limits of trade; and that the other, conſtituting courts for the redreſs of greater grievances, where his ſubjects, one with another, were alſo concerned, ſhould in any caſe be ſo confined as to leave their perſons and properties without redreſs. Indeed, he conſiders the charter a more extenſive good, deſigned for the happy government and protection of every individual of the *Engliſh* nation reſiding in any of theſe parts.

Secondly, *He is of opinion, that the employing* Engliſh *agents is much more eligible than black gomeſtahs.* For having experienced both, he can aver, that he has never had a complaint againſt any of his *European* agents, though he cannot ſay ſo much of the black gomaſtahs, whoſe tyrannical and arbitrary diſpoſitions, when in authority, do incline them to a ſearch after their own intereſt, and a diſregard to every means they may think moſt convenient to promote it; nor can the ſtricteſt eye over them, and even the infliction of puniſhment, root the evil out. Whereas he believes, that few *Europeans* are without ſome principles of honour and juſtice; but ſhould there be a character void of them, he imagines ſuch might eaſily be detected, and the power of the board prevent their being employed; for he thinks it both right and neceſſary, that every *European* agent going up the country, ſhould have the approbation and permiſſion of the board. And if any perſon be propoſed to them whoſe character and diſpoſition they are any ways dubious of, and who cannot give an ample and ſufficient ſecurity for his good behaviour, he thinks it highly neceſſary ſuch perſon ought to be objected to. The ſecurity might be reſponſible for his not interfering with the Nabob's officers,

* Mr. *Verelſt* was at this time chief of the factory at *Chittigong*.

revenues,

revenues, government, or any concerns belonging to the natives; but ſhould the agents be ill uſed by them, his application for redreſs may be made to the chief of the neareſt ſubordinate; or in caſe of his not being in the neighbourhood of a ſubordinate, to the Preſident of *Calcutta*. And ſhould an *European* agent, after this, be guilty of any act of a criminal nature, he thinks the board have a right immediately to recal him, when he may be proſecuted for his offence. But ſhould Mr. *Verelſt* be erroneous in his opinion, in regard to the execution of our laws in ſuch caſes, not having a perfect copy of the charter to refer to, and that ſuch offences cannot be tried by our own laws, *we have ſtill a ſufficient authority left of adminiſtering juſtice by the laws of this country*. For if an agent, when up the country, is ſuppoſed to be not under his own native laws, he muſt unavoidably be under the laws of the country he is in; for it is impoſſible that a ſubject of any ſociety can be unreſponſible to all law. This method he thinks the Nabob can have no objection to, though the offence may be committed within part of his government, when he ſhall be convinced how far it is intended to give redreſs to his ſubjects by the moſt impartial juſtice. Nor does he apprehend the injured native can diſapprove of this method of redreſs, which he may purſue without expence; when, in the ſame circumſtance, by application to his courts he muſt pay ſo heavily for it. And to prevent any objection being made to the diſtance that ſuch complainants muſt come for redreſs, a reaſonable allowance for their loſs of time and expence (which will alſo be a further check on agents) may be made to them by the offender, or in caſe of his default by his ſecurities. A few examples like thoſe, he doubts not, would in a ſhort time remove moſt, or all complaints againſt *European* agents; but he knows no method that can be propoſed to prevent the licentious behaviour of black gomaſtahs.

Having thus far conſidered the propriety of employing *European* agents, or black gomaſtahs, Mr. *Verelſt* begs leave to add, that it is his opinion a greater dependence may be made on gentlemen of our own country, and a much greater advantage reaped by the trader from their ſervices. *And viewing it alſo in a political light, he thinks many very material benefits may ariſe from the knowledge we might thereby gain of the country*, its produces, and trade, the cuſtoms, manners, and government of the people; circumſtances which we may ever remain ignorant of, if black gomaſtahs only are to be employed; the benefits of the knowledge of which ſpeak ſo ſtrongly for themſelves that they need no comments thereon.

The licentiouſneſs of *European* agents that the board mentions in the circumſtance of * *bârja*, or *guchaout*, he is of opinion ought to be entirely prohibited; and is ſurprized how ſo extraordinary an oppreſſion has taken its

* In the *Hindoſtany* dialect, *ŧarja* or rather *marja ŧurna*, ſignifies to barter or exchange commodities, and *guchaona*, to compel their receipt by force, fear, or influence. The moſt extraordinary inſtance that was ever given of this latter practice, and perhaps the only one, upon the Company's records, down to *September* 1768, of which full proof can be given; was of the cotton imported from *Surat*, by the gentlemen of the *Bengal* Council 1765, as mentioned in the ſecond chapter of our narrative, which was *guchowed* upon *Mahommed Reza Khawn*, who *guchowed* it upon the zemindârs, who again *guchowed* it upon the inhabitants.

riſe, or was ever ſuffered, if known to the employers of ſuch agents as are accuſed of it.

Mr. *Verelſt*, therefore, begs leave ſummarily to obſerve, that he is of opinion *European* agents ſhould be employed in preference to black gomaſtahs; and that ſuch agents who have the approbation and permiſſion of the board, may be proſecuted for any crimes or licentiouſneſs they may commit.

(Signed) HARRY VERELST.

NUM. X.

COPY of the Proceedings of a Committee of the Houſe of Commons, on Lord Clive's *Letters, dated,* Madraſs *17th* April 1765; *ſetting forth the then ſucceſsful Situation of the Company's Affairs in* India, *and directing all his Property to be inveſted in* East India *Stock.*

Veneris, 29 die Januarii 1773.

PETER MICHELL, Eſq; Secretary to the *Eaſt India* Company.

DO you know of any letter written in cypher, from Lord *Clive* to Mr. *Walſh* in 1765? I had ſuch a letter; it is dated the 17th of *April* 1765; it was delivered to me by Mr. *James*, the late Secretary, and I have a copy.

Was it delivered to you as an official paper belonging to the Company? I underſtand it was. The original letter appears to have been put into Mr. *James*'s hand by Mr. *Rous*, about the 29th of *March* 1766; part of it being in cypher in order to be decyphered. The key to the cypher being in the poſſeſſion of Mr. *James*, Mr. *James* in a day or two after, delivered the letter and cypher to me in order to decypher it; that done, I returned the original and the decyphered copy to Mr. *James*, by whoſe direction I made another copy, and delivered that alſo to Mr. *James*, and which came to my poſſeſſion again about two years afterwards, upon his leaving the office.

Whether any Directors, except the members of the Secret Committee, at that time knew any thing of that letter? I believe not.

What became of the original letter? I do not know.

In what manner was it delivered to you? Under the ſtricteſt injunctions of ſecrecy.

An order on the *Eaſt India* Company for the production of the copy of that letter from Lord *Clive* to Mr. *Walſh*, and a letter in cypher from Lord *Clive* to *Thomas Rous*, Eſq; of the ſame date.

Lunæ,

Lunæ, 1 *Februarii* 1773.

The following letter produced and read from Lord *Clive* to Mr. *Walſh*.

(COPY.)

Memorandum. Thoſe parts in cypher are diſtinguiſhed thus (")

Madraſs, 17*th April* 1765.

Dear WALSH,

I have deſired Mr. *Rous* to furniſh you with a copy of my letter to him of this day's date; likewiſe with the cypher, that you may be enabled to underſtand what follows.

" The contents are of great importance, that I would not have them " tranſpire. Whatever money I have in the public funds, or any where " elſe, and as much as can be borrowed in my name, I deſire may be, with- " out the loſs of a minute, inveſted in *Eaſt India* Stock. You will ſpeak to " my attornies on this point; let them know I am anxious to have my " money ſo diſpoſed of, and preſs them to haſten the affair as much as " poſſible."

If a ſucceſſor to Mr. *Palk* is not abſolutely fixed upon, I beg you will exert your whole influence with Mr. *Rous* in favour of Mr. *Call*; I can aſſure you he appears to me by far the moſt proper perſon, in this ſettlement, to ſucceed to the government; in him both the civil and military qualities are united, and I need not add, that in the recommendation of him I am biaſſed by nothing but the good of the Company.

I am, dear *Walſh*, your affectionate friend,

CLIVE.

GEORGE DUDLEY, Eſq; examined.

I was Deputy Chairman to the *Eaſt India* Company at the time Lord *Clive*'s letter to Mr. *Walſh* arrived in *England*; the letter was brought by Mr. *Rous* to the Secret Committee; I believe only three of the Committee were preſent, Mr. *Rous*, Mr. *Boulton*, and myſelf; we afterwards held a Secret Committee, and from thence carried it to the Court of Directors; the letter to Mr. *Walſh* was not read to the Court of Directors; that to Mr. *Rous* was, except the laſt paragraph, which mentioned that there was a letter to Mr. *Walſh*; nothing elſe was done upon it.

Do you remember any propoſition for burning the letter, or taking a copy of it, or any ſelf-denying obligation which the gentlemen preſent entered into, not to deal in ſtock in conſequence of it? We did take a copy of it, which is now in the office; I do not remember any other particulars of the queſtion.

What were the reaſons that induced the Secret Committee to take a copy of that letter to be lodged in the *India-houſe*? Becauſe they had the cypher, and after decyphering it a copy remained of courſe.

Was a copy given to Mr. *Walſh*? Yes.

Was

Was it neceſſary to have two copies to decypher it? A copy was kept, that the Company might know all the tranſactions of the Secret Committee.

Did you communicate this intelligence, that Lord *Clive* had given orders to lay out all his money in the *India* ſtock, to the proprietors in general? No, nor to the Court of Directors.

Is it uſual for the Secret Committee at the *India-houſe* to report their tranſactions to the Court of Directors, or the Court of Proprietors? It is not.

What then was meant by the former part of the evidence, in which you ſay, that a copy of the letter was kept, that the Company might know all the tranſactions of the Secret Committee? When I ſaid the Company, I meant the Secret Committee.

Whether the purport of the letter to Mr. *Walſh* was communicated to all the members of the Secret Committee? It was only communicated to Mr. *Rous*, Mr. *Boulton*, and myſelf.

Were there any other members at that time? I do not perfectly recollect, but I think *Cutts*, *Jones*, and *Savage* were likewiſe of the Secret Committee.

Was it laid before the Secret Committee, as aſſerted in the former part of your evidence? Mr. *Rous*'s letter was, but not that to Mr. *Walſh*.

What were your reaſons for concealing from the Court of Directors one part of the letter to Mr. *Rous*? To the beſt of my remembrance Mr. *Rous* deſired that that part of the letter might be concealed, for he conceived the letter to be a private letter to himſelf, and thought he had a right to conceal what part of it he thought proper.

Did you conceive it likewiſe as a private letter? Moſt certainly I did.

Did Lord *Clive* at that time write any public letter to the Court of Directors, or Secret Committee? I do not remember that he did.

When Mr. *Rous*'s letter was laid before the Court of Directors, were they told that any part of it was concealed from them? I believe not.

Was Mr. *Rous*'s letter laid before the Court of Directors as an entire letter, or as an extract? It was not laid before them as an extract, but read as an entire letter by the Secretary, to the beſt of my recollection.

Was there a Secret Committee exiſting at this time at the *India-houſe* for any other buſineſs except ſignals? To the beſt of my remembrance there was a Secret Committee, and I do not remember that we ever were without one.

What are the nature and powers of this Committee as you conceive? To take into their cognizance all matters of a ſecret nature, that may not be proper to be immediately communicated to the Court of Directors.

Do you apprehend that they are conſtituted judges of what is proper to be communicated to the Court of Directors? I ſuppoſe they are the proper judges.

In what manner are they appointed? By the Court of Directors, at the ſame time with the other Committees.

To what number does that Committee generally amount to? It uſed to conſiſt of five, but has ſince been enlarged to ſeven or nine, to the beſt of my recollection.

Is

Is it uſual to leave any perſon out of that Committee who has been appointed under a former direction? It is not, and for that reaſon the Committee was enlarged.

Have the powers of that Committee never been defined by the Court of Directors at the time of their appointment, and have they never acted under written inſtructions? I believe not. They act at their diſcretion.

Do you know the date of that letter from Lord *Clive* to Mr. *Rous?* The 17th of *April* 1765, from *Fort St. George*, and he brought it to the Secret Committee the 30th of *March* 1766.

Did not the Secret Committee or Court of Directors conſider it as a public letter, becauſe it was written in the Company's cypher? We did not conſider it as a public letter, and Mr. *Rous* inſiſted it was a private letter to him, and it was in his power to communicate it to the Court of Directors or not. If I remember right theſe were Mr. *Rous*'s words.

Did you write any letter to Lord *Clive* upon that ſubject, and do you remember the contents? I do not remember the contents.

Do you know the reaſon why the letters to Meſſrs. *Walſh* and *Rous* were written in cypher? I do imagine it was, that the contents might not be known to our enemies, as the letter came by a *French* ſhip from *Pondicherry*.

Did you conceive that the Court of Directors were to be conſidered as our enemies, that the letter was likewiſe to be concealed from them? I never conceived the Court of Directors to be our enemies, but I looked upon the letter as entirely in the diſpoſal of Mr. *Rous* as a private letter.

Do you conceive that in a letter upon the public ſervice, the Secret Committee has a power to communicate ſome parts, and ſuppreſs others? I think they have not the power to ſuppreſs any parts of a public letter, nor have they ever practiſed it, to the beſt of my knowledge.

Was the whole of this letter to Mr. *Rous* of a public nature, or part public and part private? It was of a public nature, except the laſt paragraph, which related to Mr. *Walſh*, and which was the paragraph ſuppreſſed.

If Lord *Clive* had intended the contents of the letter to Mr. *Rous* ſhould have been known to the Court of Directors, would not the ſame letter addreſſed to them in cypher have been equally ſecret from our enemies? I am not certain.

Could thoſe letters have been decyphered by any other way than by bringing them to the *India-houſe?* I believe not, except Lord *Clive* had ſent a cypher home.

Why? Becauſe there was no key, except at the *India-houſe*, that I know of.

Could any perſon, except the Secretary, decypher it by means of the key? I believe they might.

Who has the cuſtody of the Company's cypher? The Secretary.

Can any member of the Secret Committee procure the uſe of that cypher? The Chairman and Deputy Chairman jointly may, and no other; this is only my opinion and belief, I am not certain.

Does the Secretary keep this cypher under any oath? I believe no oath is tendered him upon that occaſion.

When

When Mr. *Rous* got his letter decyphered, did he firſt apply to you and Mr. *Boulton* for leave to uſe the key? I believe he called Mr. *Boulton* and me together, but don't know whether he had done any thing with the Secretary before.

Was his letter then decyphered? I believe not.

Did Mr. *Rous* call you together before the 30th of *March?* I believe not.

Has every Director or other member of the Company a right to have private letters written to him under the Company's cypher? I don't know of any ever being ſent before this; they cannot help their being ſent, but would find a difficulty to get them decyphered without the Company's key.

Do you apprehend that Mr. *Rous* alone could ſend abroad 20,000 ſtand of arms, as many *Europeans* as would complete three regiments, and a conſiderable body of light-horſemen, without the aid and aſſiſtance of the Court of Directors? Though I did not conſider it as an official letter, we acted in all reſpects as if it had been one.

Do you think that when the contents of that letter were made known to twenty-four Directors, they could long remain a ſecret? It was never intended to keep it long a ſecret; it was communicated to the Court of Directors in order to make it public; I mean the letter to Mr. *Rous*.

Lord *Clive* being aſked, whether he means to ſay that it never was his intention, that this letter to Mr. *Rous* in cypher of the 17th of *April*, ſhould be kept a ſecret? Not from the Court of Directors, nor from Mr. *Walſh*.

Was it your lordſhip's intention that no others but Mr. *Walſh*, and the Court of Directors ſhould be acquainted with it? It was my intention that Mr. *Walſh* ſhould not acquaint any one whatever with the contents of that letter to Mr. *Rous*, becauſe they were political.

In what public ſtation, reſpecting the *Eaſt India* Company, did Mr. *Walſh* ſtand, that your lordſhip conceived thoſe political matters, which ſhould be kept a ſecret from all others except the Directors, ſhould be communicated to him? Mr. *Walſh* was in no public ſtation whatever belonging to the Company at that time, but he was my particular friend; had formerly been a ſervant of the Company's abroad for many years, and from the revolution of *Plaſſey*, till a conſiderable time afterwards, was my Secretary; and was intruſted with the political tranſactions during the time that I was in the command of the army, and likewiſe a part of the time of my government in *Bengal*.

Lord *Clive* read the following as a true copy of the letter he had wrote to Mr. *Rous*.

Copy of a letter from Lord *Clive* to *Thomas Rous*, Eſq; dated at *Madraſs*, 17th of *April* 1765.

Dear Sir,

WE arrived at this place the 10th inſt. and ſhall proceed to *Bengal* next *Saturday* the 20th of *April*. The *Prince of Wales* kept us company the greateſt

eſt part of the way to *Ceylon*, and is by this time I hope at her deſtined port, all well.

I muſt now enter with you into the politicks of *India*. The particulars of our late ſucceſſes, and now very flouriſhing condition of the Company's affairs in *Hindoſtan*, you will have been informed of at large before this reaches you.

I ſhall therefore only trouble you with my ſentiments in conſequence of thoſe ſucceſſes, and truſt to your co-operating with me in carrying into execution, and in eſtabliſhing upon the moſt ſolid baſis, ſuch parts of my plan as appear capable of anſwering what we have both ſo diſintereſtedly at heart, the Company's honour and proſperity.

We have at laſt arrived at that critical period which I have long foreſeen, I mean that period which renders it neceſſary for us to determine whether we can or ſhall take the whole to ourſelves. *Jaffier Ally Khawn* is dead, and his natural ſon is a minor, but I know not whether he is yet declared ſucceſſor; *Sujah al Dowlah* is beat from his dominion; we are in poſſeſſion of it; and it is ſcarcely hyperbole to ſay the whole Mogul Empire is in our power. *The inhabitants of the country we know by long experience have no attachment to any obligation*; their forces are neither diſciplined, commanded, nor paid as ours are. Can it then be doubted that a large army of *Europeans* will effectually preſerve us ſovereigns, not only by holding in awe the attempt of any country prince, but by rendering us ſo truly formidable, that no *French*, *Dutch*, or other enemy, will preſume to moleſt us?

You will, I am ſure, imagine with me, that after the length we have run, the Princes of *Hindoſtan* muſt conclude our views to be boundleſs; they have ſeen ſuch inſtances of our ambition, that *they cannot ſuppoſe us capable of moderation*. The very Nabobs whom we might ſupport, would be either covetous of our poſſeſſions or jealous of our power. Ambition, fear, avarice, would be daily watching to deſtroy us; a victory would be but a temporary relief to us, for the dethroning the firſt Nabob would be followed by ſetting up another, who, from the ſame principles would, when his treaſure admitted of his keeping up an army, purſue the very path of his predeceſſor. We muſt indeed become Nabobs ourſelves in fact, if not in name, perhaps totally ſo without diſguiſe, but on this ſubject I cannot be certain until my arrival in *Bengal*. Let us, and without delay, complete out three *European* regiments to one thouſand men each; ſuch an army, together with five hundred light cavalry, three or four companies of artillery, and the forces of the country, will certainly render us invincible. In ſhort, if riches and ſecurity are the objects of the Company, this is the method, the only method now for ſecuring them; our troops you will hear are at this time above half way to *Debly*, a march I highly diſapprove of. I mean abſolutely to bound our poſſeſſions and conqueſts to *Bengal*. Never ſhall the going to *Debly* be a plan adopted by me if poſſible to be avoided, and you may depend upon my putting a ſtop to it: nor ſhould I ever have thought of going ſuch lengths, if others had not rendered it neceſſary. I could have wiſhed that our operations had been carried on upon a plan of more moderation, and that we had not been obliged to maintain any other military force than what might

be ſufficient to preſerve and purſue our commercial advantages; but ſince our views are extended, and ſince commerce alone is not the whole of the Company's ſupport, we muſt go forward; to retract is impoſſible. One word more, increaſe our army to the eſtabliſhment above-mentioned, 20,000 ſmall arms, with gun-powder ſufficient, and remember that the light cavalry are moſt neceſſary. The preſent eſtabliſhment for *Madraſs* is ſufficient, no addition is wanted there, but *Bengal* requires your attention.

Give me leave now to lead you for a few moments into the civil department. See what an *Augean* ſtable is to be cleanſed. The confuſion we behold, what does it ariſe from? Rapacity and luxury, the unwarrantable deſire of many to acquire in an inſtant, what only a few can, or ought to poſſeſs. Every man would be rich without the merits of long ſervices, and from this inceſſant competition undoubtedly ſprings that diſorder to which we muſt apply a remedy or be undone, for it is not only malignant but contagious. The new covenants, though I do not entirely approve of their preſent ſhape, will make a beginning.

Many of the civil ſervants will probably reſign their employments. The Court of Directors muſt ſupply the ſettlement with young men more moderate, or leſs eager in their purſuit of wealth; and we may perhaps be reduced to the neceſſity of drawing ſome ſenior ſervants from the other ſettlements. It muſt be your care, and I truſt you will do all in your power, to ſend out proper gentlemen: affairs ſeem to be coming to ſuch a paſs, that in a little time there will be hardly any perſon at the Council Board, above the rank or age of a writer. In ſhort, the evils, civil and military, are enormous; but they ſhall be rooted out. Whatever odium may be thrown upon me by the malice or diſappointment of individuals, I am reſolved to act for the advantage of the Company in every reſpect.

I have not time here to inform you of my whole plan of reformation, but the motives upon which I have founded it, being no other than the public good, you may ſafely exert yourſelf in its ſupport, if it ſhould ſtand in need of your aſſiſtance, which I hardly think it can, even though faction ſhould be ſtill raging.

I propoſe no advantage to myſelf—I am determined to return to *England* without having acquired one farthing addition to my fortune—Surely then *I cannot poſſibly deſign any thing but public good.*

Our affairs are now in ſuch a ſituation as to require the conduct of them ſhould be managed with the utmoſt ſecrecy, and conſequently the knowledge of them confided to few. I mention this, becauſe I find that your Secret Committee is aboliſhed, and I wiſh to hear very ſoon that it is re-eſtabliſhed.

As I have written to Mr. *Walſh* upon this ſubject, and thought proper to uſe the ſame precaution I have to you, I muſt beg you to furniſh him with the key, and likewiſe with a copy of this letter.

I am, dear Sir,

Your obliged Friend, and humble Servant,

(Signed) CLIVE.

When

When your lordſhip wrote your letter to Mr. *Rous*, in which you ſpeak of undertaking the *Herculean* labour of clearing the *Augæan* ſtable, had you been informed of any fact againſt any perſon or perſons to intitle you to make uſe of that expreſſion? Many;—the whole of Mr. *Vanſittart*'s narrative was laid before me by Mr. *Palk*.

Was it upon that narrative alone that you made uſe of that expreſſion? Not only from that, but from various accounts that I had from every body I met at *Madraſs*.

Was you inſtructed to enquire into the preſents received upon the depoſition of *Jaffier*, and elevation of *Coſſim Ally Khawn*? No; I think not, at that time.

Can your lordſhip particularize any fact told you by any perſon upon which you founded the expreſſions againſt the ſervants in your letter to Mr. *Rous*? I have already ſaid, the public records of the Company, and I heard from many perſons the ſame facts that were mentioned in theſe public records, particularly, carrying on the trade of ſalt at firſt duty free, and afterwards upon paying two and a-half *per cent.* and all contrary to the orders of the Company. I am not certain of that fact, but I am ſure that when Mr. *Vanſittart* had eſtabliſhed, by agreement with *Coſſim*, the duty of nine *per cent.* that the majority of the Council denied Mr. *Vanſittart*'s authority, and inſiſted upon their right to trade duty free by virtue of their royal firmaun; and at the ſame time they inſiſted upon that right, they inſiſted that *Coſſim Ally Khawn*, the Nabob, ſhould not ſuffer his own ſubjects to trade duty free.

Was it on this fact only, or principally, that you grounded your expreſſion of clearing the *Augæan* ſtable? On that and many other facts, particularly upon complaints from numbers of the inhabitants, of the Company's ſervants and their agents acting under them, having engroſſed and monopolized into their hands, the whole trade of the country, I do not chuſe to ſpecify any more particular complaints, but refer to the Company's records, which I read at *Madraſs*.

Do you know of any particular complaints? I have already ſpecified ſeveral.

Can you ſpecify any more? I beg leave to decline ſpecifying any more.

Do you think that the conduct of the Council in refuſing to confirm the treaty made by Mr. *Vanſittart* at *Mongheer*, agreeing to pay nine *per cent.* was improper? I think that great part of it was improper; becauſe I think they ought to have paid a great deal more.

Do you think the whole treaty was proper? I do not.

Do you think Mr. *Vanſittart* was authorized to conclude a treaty without laying it before the Council? I think not.

In clearing the *Augæan* ſtable, did you mean to include every body who had been of opinion that the nine *per cent.* ought not to have been paid, and that the firmaun granted to the Company permitted their ſervants under the Company's duſtuck to trade duty free in all articles, by land and water, import and export? I mean to cenſure no man living for giving his opinion in a public ſtation.

Did the different gentlemen whom you cenſured in your letter, before you came among them, do any more than give their opinion in a public ſtation? I never cenſured any particular people whatever; I ſpoke in general terms.

Do you know what opinion General *Carnac*, *Harry Verelſt*, and *John Carſtier*, whom you recommended as the moſt upright men upon earth, gave upon that occaſion? I don't remember that particular expreſſion, but to the beſt of my remembrance thoſe gentlemen gave it as their opinion, that the Company's ſervants had a right to trade duty free by virtue of their royal firmaun.

What opinion did theſe three gentlemen give with reſpect to the duty of nine *per cent.*? That Mr. *Vanſittart* had no right to conclude ſuch a treaty with the Nabob.

Did you conſider the inhabitants of *Bengal* as ſubjects to the Mogul or to the Nabob? I think them ſubjects to the Nabob, becauſe the Mogul's power was annihilated.

Do you admit, from the contents of the letter to Mr. *Rous*, that you had formed a reſolution at *Madraſs* to carry the three following things into execution upon your arrival at *Bengal*, viz. ſeizing the Dewannee, diſmiſſing the Company's ſervants, and calling ſome of the ſenior ſervants from the other ſettlements to fill up their places? I do not admit I had formed any one of theſe reſolutions.

By what ſhip did Lord *Clive*'s letter from *Madraſs* to Mr. *Rous* in cypher arrive? It was a *French* frigate; I believe it was *La Gracieuſe*.

Mr. *Johnſtone* here read an extract of a letter from Lord *Clive* to the Court of Directors, 24th of *April* 1764, *viz.* "Indeed Mr. *Vanſittart*'s ideas in "politics have differed ſo widely from mine, that either the one or the "other muſt have been totally in the wrong." Alſo an extract from a pamphlet, intitled, A Letter to the Proprietors of *Eaſt India* Stock from Mr. *Henry Vanſittart*, in the year 1767; wherein Mr. *Vanſittart* aſſerts, that "There was no monopoly in my time, whatever there may be now. I have "mentioned that I met, when I came down the river from *Mongbeer*, ſeveral "fleets of boats loaded with ſalt, belonging to country merchants going up "to *Patna*, and the ſame was ſeen every day in all parts." And in page 120 Mr. *Vanſittart* further ſays, "Upon the whole, I muſt repeat, that there "was not, according to the beſt of my knowledge, any order againſt the "trade in ſalt until the 8th of *February* 1764, which orders did not arrive "in *Bengal* till all the accounts of reſtitution had been delivered in, which "is a period later than that to which his lordſhip alludes." Mr. *Johnſtone* alſo read another paragraph from the ſame pamphlet, page 136, wherein Mr. *Vanſittart* ſays, "That no one could diſpute the power of the Court of "Directors to appoint whom they pleaſed to every ſtation in their ſervice; "but that no Governor, or Council, or Committee abroad, had ever before "attempted to call in ſervants from another ſettlement to fill up vacancies in "Council, and that without diſparagement to thoſe gentlemen, whom the "Committee had called from *Madraſs*, I would venture to ſay, there were "a great number among the ſervants in *Bengal*, as well qualified in every

"reſpect

"respect to fill the vacant ſeats in Council; and that during my reſidence in "*Bengal*, I had no reaſon to complain of the want of diligence, capacity, or "integrity in the ſervants in general."

MR. GREGORY, a Member, examined.

Do you look upon the letter wrote by Lord *Clive* to Mr. *Rous* as a public letter; and had you been in Mr. *Rous*'s ſituation, ſhould you have thought it your duty to have laid it before the Court of Directors? Had I been in Mr. *Rous*'s ſtation in the *Eaſt India* Company's direction, I certainly ſhould have conſidered it as a public letter, and have communicated the whole of it to the Court of Directors.

Would you have made that letter public from a ſenſe of your duty to the Company, or as fulfilling the intention of the writer? From the ſenſe of my duty as a Director only.

Do you think that it was Lord *Clive*'s intention, when he wrote that letter, that the contents of it ſhould be kept ſecret, and not communicated to the Secret Committee or the Court of Directors? I cannot poſſibly anſwer for his lordſhip's intentions, but had I received it, I ſhould not have conſidered it was meant that I ſhould keep it a ſecret, as nothing that I have heard, expreſſed any ſuch deſire in the writer.

Would you have furniſhed Mr. *Walſh* with the key of the Company's cypher, agreeable to the deſire of Lord *Clive* in his letter to Mr. *Rous*? I would not. I ſhould have communicated his requeſt to the Court of Directors, and left it to them to act as they thought proper. I ſhould not have objected to the Secretary's decyphering the letter with the concurrence of the Court of Directors, but I would not have delivered the Company's key to any perſon whatever.

Do you think that the laſt paragraph of the ſaid letter to Mr. *Rous* was meant to be communicated to the Secret Committee or the Court of Directors? I do not.

After reading the following paragraphs in Lord *Clive*'s letter to Mr. *Rous*, viz. "Our affairs are now in ſuch a ſituation as to require the con-"duct of them ſhould be managed with the utmoſt ſecrecy, and conſequent-"ly the knowledge of them confided to few. I mention this becauſe I find "that your Secret Committee is aboliſhed, and I wiſh to hear very ſoon "that it is re-eſtabliſhed."——And the following paragraph in his letter to Mr. *Walſh*, viz. "I have deſired Mr. *Rous* to furniſh you with a copy of "my letter to him of this day's date, likewiſe with the cypher, that you "may be enabled to underſtand what follows (in cypher) "The contents "are of great importance, that I would not have them tranſpire. Whatever "money I have in the public funds, or any where elſe, and as much as can "be borrowed in my name, I deſire may be, without the loſs of a minute, "inveſted in *Eaſt India* ſtock. You will ſpeak to my attornies on this "point; let them know I am anxious to have my money ſo diſpoſed, and "preſs them to haſten the affair as much as poſſible."——And coupling theſe two paragraphs together, would you, Mr. *Gregory*, have been of opi-

nion that it was the intention of the writer that the letter to Mr. *Rous* ſhould have been made known to the Court of Directors or not? I ſhould not.

JOHN WALSH, Eſq; examined.

Was you one of Lord *Clive*'s attornies when he was abroad? I was.

What quantity of *India* ſtock did you purchaſe for Lord *Clive*, in conſequence of his letter in cypher from *Madraſs* to you, on 17th *April* 1765? That letter was received 30th *March* 1766. On the 20th of *April* arrived the packet of the *Admiral Stevens*, forwarded from *Liſbon*, which brought public advices from Lord *Clive*, then at *Bengal*, relative to our being in poſſeſſion of the dewannee: in that interval Lord *Clive*'s attornies bought for him 12,000 l. principal ſtock.

Was it fairly bought and paid for? Certainly.

How long did it remain before any part of it was ſold out? I can't abſolutely ſay, but I believe a twelvemonth at leaſt.

Was any of that ſtock ſo ſold out, made uſe of to buy in again? I am pretty certain it was not: it was ſold out to complete ſome purchaſe of land that Lord *Clive* had made.

Did you make a ſecret of the opinion you entertained of *India* ſtock? I certainly did not. I ſpoke of it to many perſons as a very beneficial thing, ſome of whom I underſtand bought in conſequence. The greateſt part of Lord *Clive*'s above-mentioned ſtock was bought at 165 1-4th, the reſt 165 1-5th. After the arrival of the packet, brought by the *Admiral Stevens*, ſome ſtock was bought for Lord *Clive* at 175, and ſome at 179; and, at this price, to the beſt of my remembrance, *Eaſt India* ſtock continued three or four months afterwards.

What was the amount of the other purchaſes made by Lord *Clive*? After the public advices arrived, there was bought on the 21ſt of *April* 13,000 l. capital ſtock, at 175, and 5,000 l. at 179 on the 9th of *May*; and this was all that was bought for Lord *Clive* while he was abroad.

Martis 2 die Februarii 1773.

Mr. *Walſh* having looked over his evidence of yeſterday, deſires to ſtate to the Committee that he had made a miſtake in ſaying that the ſtock continued at 179 l. for three months; he ſince finds from different memorandums of his own purchaſes, at that time the ſtock was at 190 l. The letter of the 17th of *April* 1765, was received 30th *March* 1766, was delivered to Mr. *Walſh* by Lady *Clive*, at the ſame time that the letter to Mr. *Rous* was delivered to him. Meſſrs. *Rous* and *Walſh* went to the *India-houſe* together to have their letters decyphered; as it was *Sunday*, neither Chair nor Deputy Chairman were preſent at the *India-houſe*, and without their order, the letters could not be decyphered; Mr. *Walſh*'s letter was therefore left with Mr. *Rous* till he could obtain permiſſion. The next day Mr. *Walſh* went down to the *India-houſe*, and received, from the Chairman, the contents of

of his letter decyphered, but was refuſed any information of the contents of Mr. *Rous*'s letter.

When had you the firſt communication of the contents of Mr. *Rous*'s letter? I had a copy of it tranſmitted to me from Lord *Clive*, by the packet which came by the *Admiral Stevens*, the 20th of *April*.

Where was you and Mr. *Rous* at the time of receiving Lord *Clive*'s letter from *Madraſs*? At Lady *Clive*'s in *Berkley-ſquare*.

Can you enumerate any of thoſe different perſons who made purchaſes of *Eaſt India* ſtock, in conſequence of the good opinion you had declared concerning it, as mentioned in the foregoing part of your evidence? I ſaid that I underſtood ſo. The particular periods that they purchaſed in, and to what amount, I know not. I converſed generally among a very large acquaintance, which I particularly had at that time, of the advantageous ſituation of the *Eaſt India* Company; and I remarked before, that the ſtock did not riſe in proportion to what I thought the benefits the Company were in poſſeſſion of.

Can you particularize any perſon whatſoever? I CANNOT.

Was your converſation concerning the advantageous ſituation of the *Eaſt India* Company, before or after the receipt of Lord *Clive*'s letter to you in cypher? From the nomination of Lord *Clive* to go abroad, I entertained hopes that great advantages would enſue to the Company, and was in conſequence myſelf a large ſtockholder. I therefore probably ſpoke of the advantages of the Company before the receipt of the letter, but I doubtleſs ſpoke much more of it afterwards.

What induced you to ſpeak more of it afterwards? The contents of Lord *Clive*'s letter in cypher was a direction to purchaſe ſtock for him; therefore, I could not but conceive it in Lord *Clive*'s idea a beneficial thing. It is to be obſerved, that only twenty days elapſed from the arrival of the letter in cypher to that of the public advices that we were in poſſeſſion of the dewannee.

How many attornies had Lord *Clive* at that time? Five.

Were the contents of the letter communicated to them all? The whole contents of the letter were not communicated to them, but an extract given of that part which related to the purchaſe of *Eaſt India* ſtock.

Can you ſpeak with certainty, that no ſtock was purchaſed by any of theſe attornies, nor bargain made for ſtock on behalf of Lord *Clive*, unknown to you? None, our powers were joint, not ſeparate.

Did the attornies think that they had executed the directions of Lord *Clive* in purchaſing no more ſtock, or was there any difficulty in raiſing the money ſo to do? We * purchaſed all that we had money to pay for.

* Excluſive of the *India* ſtock herein acknowledged to have been bought, for account of Lord *Clive*, by his attornies, his lordſhip made conſiderable purchaſes, from his fellow-paſſengers, on his voyage to *India*; and after his arrival in *Bengal*, tranſmitted to *England* ſeveral hundreds of private letters, with ſuch accounts of the ſituation of the Company's affairs, as were calculated to enhance it's nominal value.

NUM. XI.

COPY of a Letter from the Right Honourable Robert *Lord* Clive, *to the Honourable Sir* Joſeph Yorke, *his Majeſty's Ambaſſador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at the* Hague. *Dated the 7th* November 1765.

Calcutta, November the 7th 1765.

To the Honourable Sir JOSEPH YORKE.

SIR,

I AM perſuaded you will excuſe the liberty I have taken to incloſe, under your addreſs, a letter to my attornies in *England*, that it may be ſure of going ſafe to hand, and with as much diſpatch as poſſible. To tell you the plain truth, the letter contains bills of exchange upon the *Dutch* Company, and it affords me great pleaſure to inform you, that the great and flouriſhing condition of the *Engliſh Eaſt India* Company has reduced us to the neceſſity of ſending our money home in this manner. We have eſtabliſhed peace in *Bengal*, and, in conſequence, are purſuing meaſures which I hope will make it laſting, and ſecure to the Company the valuable acquiſitions lately obtained. Their preſent revenue, *excluſive of all expences*, amounts to 1,700,000 l. ſterling *per annum*. Our moſt difficult taſk now left, *is to prevent the ſudden growth of private fortunes, and to eradicate luxury and corruption, which, at my arrival, I found at ſuch a height, that I do not think the ſettlement in that ſtate could have exiſted another twelvemonth.* Fortunes of 100,000 l. have been obtained within the ſpace of two * years; and individuals very young in the ſervice, are returning home this year with a million and an half. It would take up too much of your time, as well as mine, to enter into further particulars. I beg leave, however, to refer you to the advices ſent by the *Admiral Stevens*, which was diſpatched home the beginning of laſt month, expreſs to the Company, with moſt important news.

I have the honour to be, *&c.*

(Signed) CLIVE.

* After the ſtricteſt ſearch, and from the beſt information, we have not been able to aſcertain one fact on which theſe aſſertions were grounded. On the contrary, we find that no fortunes were ever obtained in *Bengal*, by *Europeans*, of ſuch immenſity, or with ſuch rapidity, as thoſe of his lordſhip and the gentlemen who were his coadjutors in politics, during his two adminiſtrations in 1757 and 1765.

APPENDIX. [A.] NUM. XII.

*An * Account of such Sums as have been proved or acknowledged before the Committee of the Honourable House of Commons,* anno 1773, *to have been distributed by the Princes and other Natives of* Bengal, *&c. to the* East India Company, *and to Lord* Clive *and other Company's Servants, from the Year* 1757 *to the Year* 1766, *both inclusive; distinguishing the principal Times of the said Distributions, and specifying the Sums received by each Person respectively.*

Revolution in favour of Meer Jaffier Ally Khawn in 1757.

Mr. Roger Drake, Governor,		£ 31,500
Colonel Robert Clive,	£ 234,000	
Ditto his jaguеer, agreeably to Meer Jaffier Ally Khawn's Perwânah, from the month of Poos in the 1164th year of the Bengal style, or December A. D. 1757, and † continued, first by compromise, and afterwards by grant from the Company, to the 5th May 1784; being 26 years and 5 months, at ‡ £ 30,000l. per annum,	792,500	
		1,026,500
Mr. William Watts,		117,000
Major James Kilpatrick,		66,750
Mr. Charles Manningham,		27,000
Mr. Richard Becher,		27,000
Mr. Paul Richard Pearkes,		11,366⅔
Mr. William Frankland,		11,366⅔
Mr. Matthew Collet,		11,366⅔
Mr. William Mackett,		11,366⅔
Mr. Peter Amyatt,		11,366⅔
Mr. Thomas Boddam,		11,366⅔
Mr. John Walsh,		56,250
Mr. Luke Scrafton,		22,500
Mr. Henry Lushington,		5,625
Major Archibald Grant,		11,250
Stipulation to the navy and army,	£. 600,000.	
From which must be deducted the sum of two lacks given to Colonel Clive, which is included in the above sum of 234,000l.	22,500	
		577,500
		2,031,075

Revolution in favour of Meer Cossim Ally Khawn, 1760.

Mr. Henry Vansittart,		£ 58,333
Mr. John Zephaniah Holwell,		30,937
Mr. William Brightwell Sumner,		28,000
Mr. William Macguire,	20,625	
Ditto 5000 gold mohurs,	8,750	
		29,375
General John Caillaud,		22,910
Mr. Culling Smith,		15,354
Major Martin York,		15,354
		200,269
Carried over		£ 2,231,344

* See Reports, vol. 3d, page 311.

† See Letter A. Num. XXX. page 164.

‡ The sum stipulated in the Perwânah which was taken from the Nabob Meer Jaffier Ally Khawn, is 222,958 sicca rupees, which does not make quite thirty thousand pounds per annum; but as the payments made to his lordship have been usually kept, for a considerable time, in the Company's Treasury in Bengal, at the interest of eight per cent. this computation must be deemed very moderate.

Brought over		£ 2,231,344
Revolution on the Reſtoration of Meer Jaffier, 1763.		
Stipulation to the army,	£ 291,666	
Ditto —— to the navy,	145,833	
		437,499
Major Hector Munro in 1764 received from Bulwantſing,	£ 10,000	
Ditto —— from the Nabob,	3,000	
		13,000
The officers in Major Munro's family, from ditto,		3,000
The army received from the merchants at Banaras,		46,666
		62,666
Acceſſion of Najim al Dowlah, 1765.		
Mr. John Spencer,	£ 23,333	
Mr. Charles Stafford Playdell,	23,333	
Mr. John Johnſtone,	27,083	
Mr. Aſcanius William Senior,	23,333	
Mr. Samuel Middleton,	23,333	
Mr. John Burdett,	23,333	
Mr. Ralph Leycester,	13,125	
Mr. George Gray,	21,666	
Mr. Gideon Johnſtone,	5,833	
		139,357
General John Carnac received from Bulwantſing in 1765,	£ 9,333	
Ditto —— from the king Shah Allum,	23,333	
		32,666
Lord Clive received from Meer Jaffier's widow in 1766,		58,333
		90,999
Reſtitution on the Elevation of Meer Jaffier Ally Khawn, 1757.		
To the Eaſt India Company,	£ 1,200,000	
Europeans,	600,000	
Natives,	250,000	
Armenians,	100,000	
		2,150,000
On the Depoſal of Meer Jaffier, and the Elevation of Meer Coſſim, 1760.		
To the Eaſt India Company,		£ 62,500
On the Reſtoration of Meer Jaffier, 1763.		
To the Eaſt India Company,	£ 375,000	
Europeans, Natives, and Armenians,	600,000	
		975,000
On the Reſtoration of Sujah al Dowlah, 1765.		
To the Eaſt India Company,	£ 583,333	
		3,770,833
Total amount, including Lord Clive's jagueer,		£ 6,732,698

Num. XIII.

COPY of the Proceedings of Lord Clive *and the Select Committee, held at* Calcutta *on the 5th of* November 1765, *upon an Application made to the Preſident and Council at* Madraſs, *for four Gentlemen of the greateſt Integrity and Ability, and untainted with the Corruption and Licentiouſneſs of* Calcutta, *to be taken into the Council at* Bengal.

Fort William, the 5th November 1765.

At a Select Committee, preſent,

The Right Honourable Lord *Clive*, Preſident,

William B. Sumner, Eſq;

Brigadier General *Carnac*, and

Harry Verelſt, Eſq;

The Proceedings of the 29th *ult.* being wrote fair, were now read and approved.

THE Right Honourable the Preſident opens the buſineſs of the Committee with obſerving, That our late acquiſition of influence and revenue has ſo widely extended the ſyſtem of politicks hitherto adopted by the Company, as to render it indiſpenſably neceſſary that the adminiſtration ſhould be placed in the hands of men of the greateſt integrity and ability we can ſelect from the whole liſt of covenanted ſervants.

That, from a juſt ſenſe of the great importance of the Company's concerns in *Bengal*, the Committee had, by the *Admiral Stevens*, earneſtly exhorted the Court of Directors to admit of no claim in compoſing the Council of this Preſidency, but what was founded upon approved merit; and, at the ſame time, ſignified their ſentiments of the unfitneſs for that exalted ſtation of thoſe gentlemen who now ſtood next in ſucceſſion. That although his lordſhip conſidered it would be highly imprudent, in the preſent delicate conjuncture of affairs, to admit to ſuffrages at the board, a number of young men deeply tinctured with thoſe principles which ſo univerſally prevailed in this ſettlement, yet as time and proper examples may probably effect a reformation in their manners, he ſhould be very ſorry to exclude them utterly from the proſpect of riſing in the ſervice, as muſt neceſſarily happen if their juniors ſhould be promoted in preference to them.

That the board being now reduced to a number insufficient to conduct the public business, he apprehends it becomes absolutely necessary to fill up the vacancies in Council; for as to calling down the chiefs of the subordinates, to assist at the Presidency, it might be productive of the worst consequences; since, then, the whole weight of the investment, and great part of the collections, must devolve upon *younger servants, who have neither the necessary experience or influence.*

That the only expedient he can propose, that is any way adequate to the exigency of our situation, and promises fair for promoting the great scheme of reformation which the Committee have so much at heart, appears to him to consist in calling in the assistance of the most capable servants, on the *Madrass* establishment, below the rank of Council; who, being yet untainted with the corruption and licentiousness of this settlement, will cordially co-operate in every measure for establishing that spirit of frugality, industry, and subordination among the classes of junior servants, which the Committee have always considered as essential to the prosperity, and even to the security of the Company's affairs in *Bengal*. But that his lordship by no means intends those gentlemen should be looked upon as fixed on this establishment, until the pleasure of the Court of Directors shall be known; and, that *having minutely weighed and examined the characters* of the covenanted servants next to Council at *Fort St. George*, his lordship is of opinion, that justice to their merit, and regard to our own situation, require we should give the preference to Messrs. *Russell*, *Aldersey*, *Kelsall*, and *Floyer*, all men of reputed ability and unblemished honour, as well as of longer standing in the service than any upon our list of junior servants.

In consideration of all these circumstances, his lordship moved, that the Committee should immediately apply to the Presidency of *Fort St. George* for the assistance of the above-named gentlemen;—And General *Carnac* and Mr. *Verelst* approving:

Resolved, That we write to *Madrass*, requesting that Messrs. *Russell*, *Aldersey*, *Kelsall*, and *Floyer* may be sent down, with all possible dispatch, for the purposes specified in the motion.

To this resolution Mr. *Sumner* enters the following dissent:

"I am sorry to be obliged, for the first time, to enter a dissent to a reso-
"lution of this board; but the present is a case of a nature in which every
"member will necessarily be expected to judge for himself, and to satisfy
"his employers of the reasons which induced him either to approve or dis-
"approve of the measure proposed.——My reasons for disapproving of it
"are; first, That I do not think we have authority to transfer the servants
"of another Presidency to this. And, secondly, As we have already re-
"presented to the Court of Directors, by the *Admiral Stevens*, what was
"then esteemed necessary on the point of the succession to Council, that
"we ought to wait for their orders, and not anticipate, or take measures
"which perhaps may clash with their resolutions and intentions. That the
"service may not in the mean time suffer, from the deficiency of members
"at the board, I would propose, that either *those gentlemen who are deemed*

"*unexceptionable*

"unexceptionable in our own list of servants, be appointed to fill the vacan-
"cies, or that the chiefs of some of the subordinates, whose presence on such
"emergency might be spared from the business of the investment, should
"be called down, to act at the Presidency until the pleasure of our em-
"ployers is known; which we may very reasonably expect by the latter
"ships of next season."

Ordered, That the letter to *Fort St. George* be entered after these proceedings.

To the Honourable *Robert Palk*, Esq; President and Governor, *&c.* Council, at *Fort St. George*.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

THE measures we are pursuing, in order to accomplish the ends proposed by the Court of Directors, and secure to the Company the great revenues they now possess in *Bengal*, are so contrary to the expectations, the views and interests of many of their servants placed in the highest stations, and intrusted with the most weighty employments of this Presidency, that they have thought proper to resign the service. The opulent fortunes they have acquired, and the steps we are taking to prevent so sudden a growth of wealth, at the expence of the Company and the national character, will sufficiently declare the motives of their conduct and of ours.

Notwithstanding we have found it expedient to reduce the number of the board from sixteen to twelve members, yet three seats are already vacant, and Mr. *Senior* has expressed his full intention of returning home this season. It is with regret we observe, that these vacancies cannot be filled by the junior servants next in succession; the corruption that prevailed in the government has descended to the lower classes, and a Council composed of these, would frustrate every attempt to effect that general reformation so essential to the success and permanency of the measures proposed by our constituents.

We therefore earnestly request, that, in consideration of the pressing exigency of our affairs, we may be favoured with the immediate assistance of Messrs. *Claud Russell*, *William Alderscy*, *Thomas Kelsall*, and *Charles Floyer*. These gentlemen are senior to any on the list of our covenanted servants below the rank of Council, and we cannot entertain a doubt, but their removal will be approved by the Court of Directors, when we have represented the reasons upon which this request is founded.

You, gentlemen, are equally sensible with us, of the importance of this settlement to the Company, and no less sollicitous for its prosperity, which depends so much upon the judicious selection of a board. It is, therefore, our further desire, that Messrs. *Russell*, and the other gentlemen, may proceed with all possible dispatch, over land, as the season of the year would render a passage by sea tedious; and we are now forming plans for the col-

lection of the revenues, which will oblige ſeveral members of the board to be abſent from the Preſidency.

We are,

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Your moſt obedient,

humble ſervants,

(Signed) CLIVE.
W. B. SUMNER.
JOHN CARNAC.
H. VERELST.

Fort William,
the 5th *Nov.* 1765.

NUM. XIV.

COPY of a Memorial to the Court of East India *Directors, from the Company's covenanted Servants on the* Bengal *Eſtabliſhment, remonſtrating againſt the Select Committee's Appointment of four Gentlemen from* Madraſs; *with the Proceedings thereon, of the Committee, on the 20th of* January, 1766.

Fort William, the 20th January, 1766.

At a Select Committee, preſent,

The Right Honourable Lord *Clive*, Preſident,
William Brightwell Sumner, Eſq;
Brigadier General *Carnac*,
Harry Verelſt, and } Eſqrs.
Francis Sykes, }

The Right Honourable the Preſident opens the Buſineſs of the Committee with the following Minute.

GENTLEMEN,

AT our laſt meeting we had the ſatisfaction of reading the aſſent of the Preſident and Council of *Madraſs*, to our requeſt for the aſſiſtance of Meſſrs. *Ruſſell*, *Alderſey*, *Kelſall*, and *Ffloyer*, till the pleaſure of the Court of Directors ſhould be known. The arrival of thoſe Gentlemen is an event ardently to be wiſhed, by every man who regards the welfare of the Company,

and

and more particularly by us, who are the guardians of their ineſtimable poſſeſſions in *Bengal*. At the time of our appointment, the affairs at this preſidency were known to be in ſuch a ſtate, as required the exertion of extraordinary powers to amend. For that reaſon were ſuch powers given to us, and for that reaſon was I ſolicited, by a General Court of Proprietors, to accept this government. Perhaps *had they been more minutely acquainted with the corruption and licentiouſneſs which prevail, we ſhould have been inveſted with powers ſtill more extenſive.* I do not deſpair, however, to find, that thoſe we have, will prove in a great meaſure ſufficient to lay a ſolid foundation for the future proſperity of theſe provinces, and to eſtabliſh that order, ſubordination, and œconomy, without which no government can long exiſt. For my own part, I am determined to continue with perſeverance, as I begun with reſolution and diſintereſtedneſs, to effect a thorough reformation. The negligences, the abuſes, I muſt add the frauds, which have too apparently crept into almoſt every department; the abſolute neceſſity of correcting theſe; the incapacity, either from underſtanding or principle, of ſome who rank near to Council, and the unfitneſs, from youth and inexperience, of others who are endued with abilities and integrity, to aſſiſt us in our labours; the impoſſibility of our compleating the buſineſs ourſelves, ſince our abſence at times from the preſidency, or our attendance to other matters of great importance, muſt frequently divide our attention; Mr. *Verelſt* employed in ſuperviſing the *Burdwan* and *Midnapore* provinces; Mr. *Sykes* aſcertaining the whole collection of the government-revenues; and myſelf obliged to be often up the country: for theſe, among other *ſubſtantial* reaſons, we earneſtly requeſted the aſſiſtance of the Gentlemen of *Madraſs*. If we are deſirous of ſaving this ſettlement from deſtruction, we muſt have a ſupply of diſintereſtedneſs, reſolution, and abilities, from our neighbours. Such a government as this, is not to be trifled with. The commerce and immenſe revenues of the three provinces ſhall not be ſacrificed, in order to gratify the rapacity or vanity of individuals. Enough has been ſaid, enough has been ſeen, of the general depravity of this place; nor ſhould I have now ſet before you the too familiar deſcription, were it not that occaſion ſeems particularly to require a review of the civil ſervants.

In conſequence of our requeſting the aſſiſtance of the *Madraſs* Gentlemen, a memorial has been drawn up by ſome of the Gentlemen here, addreſſed to the Court of Directors, repreſenting the injury and diſgrace they ſuffer by ſuch a proceeding of the Select Committee.

The original I have not ſeen; but a copy of it has been ſent me, which I beg leave to lay before you for your further information. You will, I doubt not, be ſurpriſed to hear of certain names ſubſcribed to a memorial, expreſſing a ſenſe of diſgrace, and aſſerting the cauſe of integrity, innocence, and abilities. I have authentic information, however, that at the head of the ſubſcription are the names of two Counſellors; the one under a ſevere cenſure of the Committee, and whoſe management of the Company's inveſtment is under ſcrutiny; and the other ordered down from his chiefſhip, that his conduct may be inquired into. Whether thoſe Gentlemen have ſet themſelves up as leaders of this aſſociation from any ſenſe of reflection, as mentioned in the memorial,

memorial, or whether they have been unwarily inveigled by the ingenious young Gentlemen who, at the age of eighteen or twenty, find themſelves qualified to fill the ſtation of Counſellor, I preſume not to determine; but I am ſure the Court of Directors will be ſtruck with amazement at the ſight of their names, and be utterly at a loſs how to account for ſuch a proceeding. I am far from thinking that the Gentlemen, when they think themſelves aggrieved, are not intitled to lay their caſe before their Employers; but as they cannot be competent judges of the proceedings of the Select Committee, which have not been laid before the Council, their arraignment of our conduct ſeems rather premature: however, as the meaſure complained of, has been already recommended to the Court of Directors in my letter to them by the *Admiral Stevens*, we ſhall ſoon know whether it be approved of or not. If the reaſons urged for it did not appear ſatisfactory at the time they received my letter, I make not the leaſt doubt that the conduct of their ſervants upon this occaſion will convince them, that there is actually no other way of preſerving this ſettlement. The memorial itſelf cannot give much offence; for *though puerile, it is modeſt; and though plaintive, it is not clamorous.* But what will their Honourable Employers think of the mode in which it has been executed, unleſs they ſuppoſe it to have been inſtigated by ſome who are independent in fortune, or have no characters to loſe? For your information upon this matter, I ſhall trouble you with an extract of a letter I received on *Saturday*, the 11th inſtant, from a young Gentleman of undoubted authority, who, however, has deſired me to conceal his name, that he may not be ſubjected to the reſentment of his aſſociates. The purport of his letter is hereto annexed, together with extracts of two letters from the ſame Gentleman to Mr. *Strachey*, my Secretary.

The council-room and public offices have, we find, been the places of aſſociation for this oppoſition to our meaſures. Two Gentlemen of Council, whoſe duty it was to have diſcouraged ſuch a mode of combination, appear to have been the ringleaders in the buſineſs; although the arrival of the *Madraſs* Gentlemen could no more affect thoſe already at the Board, than it can thoſe who landed a few weeks ago in the character of Writers, juſt qualified, by the age of ſixteen, for that ſtation. The Secretary's office, at the time of a great hurry of buſineſs on the diſpatch of the ſhips, has been employed in ſummoning the civil ſervants, reſiding in *Calcutta*, to ſign this memorial, and in writing circular letters to the abſentees, for permiſſion to add their names, though the particulars of the proceedings of the Committee to which the memorial relates are yet unknown. Theſe Gentlemen have, it ſeems, gone further: they have agreed to add inſult to faction, by declaring the Gentlemen who are coming from *Madraſs* ſhall be treated with contempt, and the Members of the Committee not viſited, nor any of their invitations accepted.

For my own part, Gentlemen, every day's experience convinces me of the expediency of the power granted to the Select Committee. Without ſuch power, ſeveral of us had at this time been on our paſſage home; and extravagance, luxury, and corruption, had arrived perhaps at the end of their endeavours, the ruin of the Company in *Bengal*. The ſupporters and abettors of the preſent aſſociation deſerve our moſt ſerious attention, and I deſire we may immediately take their conduct into conſideration. Their remonſtrance,

as

as I have already obſerved, is too puerile to merit our notice; but the factious manner of making it will, if uncenſured, be a laſting reproach upon my government, and a tacit approbation of that licentious ſpirit which it is our duty to ſuppreſs.

(Signed) CLIVE.

His Lordſhip alſo deſires, that the following extracts from letters of intelligence to himſelf and his Secretary, Mr. *Strachey*, may be read.

PURPORT of a Letter to Lord *Clive*, dated *Calcutta*, the 11th *January*, 1766.

That a meeting was held on the 10th inſtant, at Mr. *Vanſittart*'s country-houſe, wherein it was reſolved, that a memorial ſhould be forthwith drawn up againſt the unprecedented and injurious ſtep of ſending for Counſellors to this preſidency from *Madraſs*; that thoſe Gentlemen ſhould on their arrival be treated with inſolence and contempt; and that any perſon belonging to this ſettlement, who ſhould preſume to ſhew them the leaſt civility or countenance, ſhould be branded with ignominy, and baniſhed ſociety. That the moſt active in this affair were, Mr. *French*, Mr. *Vanſittart*, Mr. *Majendie*, the Factors, and ſenior Writers; but that the memorial was to be ſigned by the whole body of ſervants, in the order they rank, to be laid before the Court of Directors, and there backed by the united intereſt of their reſpective friends; that Mr. *Sumner* had been ſounded, but that he had refuſed ſigning his name; and that Mr. *Campbell* was not to be made acquainted with the affair till the laſt moment, as they feared he would give his Lordſhip information thereof.

EXTRACT of a Letter to Lord *Clive*'s Secretary, dated the 11th *January*, 1766.

I muſt now requeſt you will inform him (Lord *Clive*) in addition, that Mr. *Marriott* and Mr. *Senior* are principals in the affair: the former remained in a room a long time, this morning, with ſeveral of the Gentlemen mentioned in my letter to Lord *Clive*, to influence the Writers who were invited thither for that purpoſe, to ſign their names to the famous memorial, all of whom did accordingly ſign it, though ſome much againſt their inclinations.

EXTRACT of a Letter to Lord *Clive*'s Secretary, dated the 12th *January*, 1766.

Pleaſe to inform my Lord, that I learned laſt night Mr. *Watts* had, after repeated ſolicitations, conſented to ſign the memorial; but his acceſſion is kept a greater ſecret than that of any of the others. Mr. *Sumner* has alſo at laſt, I am told, promiſed to ſign it when it returns from *Dacca*, whither it was ſent laſt night to be ſigned by the Gentlemen there. There was no ſuch thing as getting into the council-houſe yeſterday, except for one who went to ſign the memorial, as the offices were taken up in writing circular letters, and nobody

nobody admitted that was not previouſly examined. A reſolution is taken by the ſervants invited to dine with his Lordſhip to-morrow, not to wait on him, nor to accept of any invitation for the future.

Lord *Clive* likewiſe deſires, that the following copy of the memorial from the ſervants of this preſidency to the Honourable Court of Directors, may be read.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors for the Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies*.

May it pleaſe your Honours,

When your ſervants in any inſtance think themſelves aggrieved, you have been pleaſed to favour them with the indulgence of an application for redreſs, immediately to yourſelves, through the channel of your Preſident and Council. No occaſion could more urgently call for the diſagreeable neceſſity of claiming this privilege, than the ſituation wherein we now find ourſelves, by a circumſtance from which we think we have received a moſt unmerited and mortifying injury and diſgrace.

Various letters from *Madraſs* inform us, that the Select Committee here, have invited Meſſrs. *Claud Ruſſell*, *William Alderſey*, *Thomas Kelſall*, and *Charles Ffloyer*, of that place, to ſucceed to ſeats in council upon this eſtabliſhment, and that thoſe Gentlemen are accordingly on their way hither. Were we conſcious of having neglected our duty, or behaved unfaithfully in the truſt repoſed in us, we ſhould ſubmit with patience, and look upon ſuch ſeverity to be juſtly inflicted; but ſatisfied as we are of our innocence, we are ſtruck with amazement, and utterly at a loſs how to account for ſuch a proceeding.

As to the abilities of thoſe Gentlemen, we cannot but flatter ourſelves, that many may be found on this eſtabliſhment in no reſpect inferior to them; and as to the Company's buſineſs and intereſts in *Bengal*, we muſt in that point ſurely be ſuperior to them.

If our integrity be called in queſtion, it is certainly a moſt cruel act, *thus to ſtigmatize a whole ſettlement unheard*: ſuch a procedure could not fail to damp our zeal for your ſervice, and make our duty a burthen to us, had we not an entire conviction of obtaining redreſs from your impartiality and juſtice.

In the ſeventeenth paragraph of your commands of the 19th *February*, 1762, you were pleaſed to give us reaſon to hope, that your ſervants here ſhould riſe in regular ſucceſſion, and not have the mortification of being ſuperſeded, but when caſes of an abſolute neceſſity ſhould force you to a deviation. Theſe flattering hopes, from you our maſters, muſt undoubtedly add weight to the ſenſe we entertain of the injury done us upon this occaſion by our fellow-ſervants, whom we never underſtood to be appointed the judges of ſuch a neceſſity, or inveſted with an authority to make any appointments upon your civil liſt: and this ſtep from the preſent Committee, is the more affectingly ſtriking, as Lord

Clive,

Clive, in his * letter to your Honours of 27th *April*, 1764, has the following ſentence:

" The heart-burnings and diſputes which ſeem to have ſpread and over-run " your ſettlement at *Calcutta* aroſe, I much fear, from your appointment of " Mr. *Vanſittart* to the government of *Bengal* from another ſettlement, altho' " his promotion was the effect of my recommendation. The appointment " therefore of Mr. *Spencer* from *Bombay* can only tend to inflame theſe diſſen- " tions, and to deſtroy all thoſe advantages which the Company can only ex- " pect to reap from harmony and unanimity amongſt their ſervants abroad."

We wiſh ever to preſerve that reſpect which is due to our ſuperiors in the ſervice; and we hope it will appear to you, that we are abſolutely forced into this repreſentation, and that we ſhould be men unworthy your ſervice, if we did not expreſs our deep ſenſe of the injuſtice we have ſuffered. To you we ſubmit our cauſe, not doubting but you will redreſs our grievances. This will be adding to the obligations already received from you; and we beg leave to aſſure you, we ſhall ever retain a grateful ſenſe of it, and ever ſerve you with zeal and fidelity.

The Gentlemen of Council who have ſet their hands to this addreſs, altho' not immediately affected by the meaſure that has been taken, have done it as a teſtimony of their ſenſe of the unjuſt reflection caſt upon your ſervants in general, on this eſtabliſhment; and the Gentlemen to whoſe names an aſteriſm is prefixed being abſent from the ſettlement, and at too great a diſtance to have the original circulated to them before the diſpatch of the ſhips, could not ſign it themſelves, but having received copies thereof, have approved it, and deſired their names to be ſubſcribed.

We are, with the utmoſt reſpect,
May it pleaſe your Honours,
Your moſt faithful, obedient, and
moſt devoted humble ſervants,

(Signed)
* C. S. PLAYDELL,
RANDOLPH MARRIOTT,
A. W. SENIOR,
F. CHARLTON,
THO. FRENCH,
* THO. RUMBOLD,
* JOHN REED,
J. JEKYLL,
W. BOLTS,
* CHARLES ROGERS,
W. SHEWEN,
GEO. WILLIAMSON,
* P. M. DACRES,
* THO. LANE,
RICH. BARWELL,
THO. WOODWARD,

* See this letter at length, Appendix to Conſiderations, &c. page 146.

* JAMES HARRIS,
RUSSELL SKINNER,
JAMES LAWRELL,
HENRY GOODWIN,
* WALTER WILKINS,
* THO. FORBES,
JOHN GRAHAM,
* THO. HEWITT,
W. LAMBERT,
JAMES ASHBURNER,
GEO. VANSITTART,
W. MAJENDIE,
* NICHOLAS GRUEBER,
* GEO. HURST,
CHARLES STUART,
ROB. PALK,
* WILLIAM BARTON,
* NATH. BATEMAN,
HENRY COTTRELL,
EDW. STEPHENSON,
JOHN BATHOE,
* ISAAC SAGE,
* FRAN. LAW,
W. WESTON,
JOHN GROSE,
RICH. WITTS,
G. G. DRAYCOTT,
ALEX. HIGGINSON,
* J. RIDER,
ALEX. VAN RIXTEL,
C. LLOYD,
W. LUSHINGTON,
J. RIDLEY,
W. MAXWELL,
CHA. W. BOUGHTON,
CHA. INGRAM,
C. HAWKINS,
* B. G. WRIGHT,
E. BABER,
H. PALMER,
T. SHEELES,
J. L. WHYTE,
* CHARLES GORING,
J. HOLME,
P. HATLEY,
W. HARWOOD,
JOHN SUMNER,
* ROB. WILMOT,
J. J. KEIGHLY,
H. WALTER,
EWAN LAW,
E. GOLDING,
ROGER BARWELL,
W. ROOKE,
THO. LEGH,
E. FENWICK,
* W. MARRIOTT,
JOHN SAVAGE,
H. HARRIS,
W. YOUNG,
ROB. BURFORD,
G. G. DUCARELL †
RIVERS GRINDALL,
J. FAGE,
W. B. MARTIN,
W. PYE,
J. ROSEWELL,
J. HINCHMAN,
* JOHN PEIARCE,
W. MICHELL,
G. JOHNSTONE,
J. MARJORIBANKS,
J. IRWIN,
SAM. LEWIS,
ISAAC EYNARD.

Fort William,
the 29th *January*, 1766.

† Mr. *Ducarell*'s name erased by order of Council, agreeable to his requeſt in an addreſs to the board.

(Signed) E. STEPHENSON, Prov. Sec.

Num. XV.

COPY of a Letter from Mr. Gerard Guſtavus Ducarell *to the Preſident and Council at* Calcutta, *on the Subject of the Memorial recorded on their Conſultation of the* 22*d* January, 1766.

To the Right Honourable Lord *Clive*, &c. Members of the Council.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

I THINK it my duty to inform you, that on *Saturday* the 11th inſtant, *January*, I was ſent for to the council-houſe, where many of the Company's ſervants were aſſembled, in order to ſign a memorial addreſſed to the Honourable Court of Directors, remonſtrating againſt the proceedings of the Select Committee, with regard to ſending for ſeveral gentlemen from *Madraſs*, to take their ſeats at the board, on the *Bengal* eſtabliſhment.

The conſequence of remaining ſingle among a multitude who appeared to be unanimous, the dread of becoming the ſcorn of my fellow-ſervants, and the want of time to deliberate upon the propriety of what I was about to do, overcame my judgment, and I inadvertently added my name to the numbers who had already ſubſcribed to that memorial.

A few hours reflection convinced me of the folly I had been guilty of. I ſaw the impropriety and impertinence of my ſubſcribing to a remonſtrance againſt a meaſure of which I could not poſſibly form any judgment; and which, right or wrong, could not affect a man ſo young in the ſervice as I was. The ſuppoſition that the complaint of a writer could weigh down the arguments of experienced Counſellors, who are intruſted with the whole management of the Company's affairs, appeared to me abſolutely ridiculous; and to pronounce in a matter which could only concern thoſe who were near to Council, founded more like the cry of faction, than the remonſtrance of reaſon.

I accordingly, without delay, wrote to Mr. *Majendie*, deſiring he would eraſe my name from the ſubſcriptions to the ſaid memorial; and alſo to declare, if occaſion ſhould require it, that I had entered my early proteſt againſt the memorial in general, and againſt my own inconſiderate aſſent in particular.

That gentleman however, in a letter to me, has thought proper to decline complying with my requeſt. He tells me, that unleſs I direct my proteſt to the whole body of ſervants, to the Governor and Council, to the Court of Directors, or to himſelf in his public character, no notice will be taken, nor my name eraſed from the memorial.

Since I find this buſineſs is to be tranſacted in ſo official a mode, I take the earlieſt opportunity of applying, through the regular form, in order to extricate myſelf from the error I had too haſtily engaged in.

Your Lordſhip, &c. will excuſe the prolixity of this addreſs, as well as my having choſen to addreſs you at all, ſeeing that my honour and future welfare are concerned in your having before you a true ſtate of my conduct, together with my real ſentiments on this occaſion.

What I have ſaid will, I hope, in ſome meaſure ſecure for me your good opinion, which I ſhall always be ſtudious to deſerve: and I requeſt you will be pleaſed either to order my name to be ſtruck out, before the memorial is tranſmitted to the Court of Directors, or inform them that I have earneſtly ſolicited that favour.

I have the honour to be,
My Lord and Gentlemen,
Your moſt obedient and
moſt faithful humble ſervant,
GERARD GUSTAVUS DUCARELL.

Mirzapore,
the 19th *January*, 1766.

NUM. XVI.

COPIES and Extracts of Minutes, Letters, and Proceedings, of the Preſident and Members of the Council at Calcutta, *from the 25th* September 1765, *to the* 3d March 1766, *relative to the Diſputes with Lord* Clive, *which occaſioned the firſt Impriſonment of the Merchant* Ramnaut, *the Suſpenſion of Mr.* Ralph Leyceſter, *and the Reſignation of Mr.* George Gray; *with the Proceedings of the Board, in their judicial capacities, upon* Ramnaut's *firſt Confinement.*

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Preſident and Council at Calcutta, *on the 25th of* September 1765.

Mr. *Gray* delivers in the following minute, in conſequence of ſome imputations which he has heard have been laid to his charge before Lord *Clive*; which he deſires may be inquired into.

MR. GRAY's Minute.

HAVING been informed, by common report, that ſome imputations have been laid to my charge before Lord *Clive*, which are prejudicial to my character, and detrimental to my credit, I now requeſt his lordſhip will be pleaſed to inform the board of whatever I may have been charged with, that I may have an opportunity of vindicating my reputation from any injurious aſperſions thrown out againſt me. At the ſame time, I have received intelligence, that ſome perſons at *Murſhedabad* are now, or have been very lately,

lately, under actual confinement by *Mahommed Reza Khawn, to extort evidence againſt me.* Although I am at all times willing and ready to acquieſce in a candid enquiry, for the juſtification of my conduct, yet I cannot ſubmit to methods ſo contrary to juſtice, practiſed by *Mahommed Reza Khawn*, to injure me. I therefore requeſt, that he may be ordered to ſet thoſe perſons at liberty. The perſons I ſpeak of, are *Rajah Daviſing*, former dewan of *Purnea*, and *Meer Burkutt Ulla*, an officer of the *Purnea* government. The firſt of theſe, juſt before the war commenced with *Meer Coſſim*, ſent me intelligence of *Meer Sheer Ally Khawn*'s hoſtile intentions againſt me at *Maldah*; the laſt ſaved the lives of ſome *European* gentlemen, who happened to be kept priſoners at *Ragemahl*, before the capture of *Udwa Fort*, and was, at my recommendation to Major *Adams*, and by his ſolicitation to the late Nabob, appointed to an employ in the *Purnea* diſtrict. The public ſervices of both merit our protection; but it has not proved a defence for them againſt the oppreſſions of the officers of the Nabob's government.

(Signed) GEORGE GRAY.

Lord *Clive* informs Mr. *Gray*, in anſwer, that, at his requeſt, he will communicate the circumſtances to the board.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Preſident and Council at Calcutta, *on the* 30*th* September 1765.

Mr. *Gray* likewiſe enters the following minute on the ſame ſubject as that recorded on laſt conſultation, on certain imputations laid to his charge, which he deſired might be enquired into.

I BEG leave to acquaint the board, that having been informed a ſervant of mine was confined in his houſe by Lord *Clive*, under a guard of ſeapoys, I went yeſterday to his lordſhip, to acquaint him that the perſon was my ſervant: and his lordſhip informed me, *had he known he was my ſervant* he would have ſent to acquaint me of the circumſtance. I then deſired the perſon might be releaſed from his military confinement, offering to be anſwerable for his appearance; but his lordſhip was pleaſed to refuſe me. I aſked his lordſhip, on what account he was confined? and his lordſhip anſwered, for heinous crimes and miſdemeanours, as *would appear bye and bye*; on which account, it was not proper any perſon, of either ſide, ſhould have communication with him. I have to remark, that, in my minute, I deſired a fair and candid inquiry: but certainly the confinement of my ſervant ſeems not to indicate to the world that candor I hoped for, neither do I know it to be agreeable to the rules of any *Engliſh* court of juſtice whatever.

(Signed) GEORGE GRAY.

EXTRACT

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Preſident and Council at Calcutta, *on the 14th* October 1765.

Mr. *Gray* now lays before the board the following repreſentation.

On *Tueſday* laſt, I received the following note from Lord *Clive*; a copy of which I think it neceſſary to lay before you.

SIR, *Calcutta, the 8th October* 1765.

COMPLAINT has this morning been made to me, that you are taking money from the whores of the town, which I underſtand is a practice prohibited by the Company; and therefore I deſire you will diſcontinue it, until you are authorized to the contrary by the Governor and Council.

I am, Sir,

Your moſt obedient, humble ſervant,

GEORGE GRAY, Eſq; (Signed) CLIVE.

I SHALL firſt obſerve, that being at the head of an office, and accountable to the board for my conduct, I do not think myſelf privately reſponſible to the Preſident; or at leaſt, unleſs in a caſe of the greateſt exigency, that there can be occaſion for his iſſuing orders, of his own private authority, when the office is upon the ſpot, and the power of aſſembling the Council reſts with him. I cannot therefore conceive, that his lordſhip has a right to order me to diſcontinue any meaſures that I may think conſiſtent with my authority, in the office under my charge; and upon that opinion I anſwered his note by a letter, of which the following is a copy.

MY LORD, *Calcutta, the 8th October* 1765.

I HAVE received your note, but believe you are miſtaken in what you underſtand the Company had forbid to be levied from the women of the town. Thoſe orders relate to the zemindar's duties, but do not extend to any regulations formed by the Collector. Next Council-day I ſhall lay before the board what I had propoſed, together with your lordſhip's note; and if they diſapprove of my meaſures, they ſhall immediately be diſcontinued. I cannot help obſerving here, that your lordſhip ſeems to give a very ready and attentive ear to every information and inſinuation to my prejudice; nor can I help thinking there is juſtice in Mr. *Burdett*'s obſervation, "That your "lordſhip ſeems determined to render the ſervice a burthen to thoſe who have "chanced to differ from you in opinion."

I am, with due reſpect, my Lord,

Your moſt obedient, humble ſervant,

To the Right Honourable LORD CLIVE. (Signed) GEORGE GRAY.

I muſt

I muſt firſt complain to the board, that his lordſhip, without conſulting them, or informing me, called ſome of the ſervants of my office, and privately demanded from them accounts of money received, which, I think, both implies a ſuſpicion and promulgates it through the town, that I intended to render falſe accounts.

I ſhall next take notice of the ſtyle of his lordſhip's note, where he ſays, I take money from the whores of the town, *&c.* Such an expreſſion is unbecoming from one gentleman to another; and I muſt beg leave to think ſtill more ſo from the Preſident of the Council to a member of the ſame government. Indecency of ſentiment and expreſſion, unmerited and unſupported, I believe will always be conſidered to reflect on the perſon who utters it; but ſtill the imputation alone being injurious, I muſt very particularly diſprove it.

I muſt inform the board that, on my firſt entry on the office of Collector, the proſtitutes offered me a *ſelaamy*; which I was aſſured was uſual, and which would have amounted to near two thouſand rupees. This offer I refuſed; but, in compliance with an eſtabliſhed cuſtom, I deſired the principal amongſt them to preſent one gold mohur and five rupees in the name of the whole, and I accepted that *nuzzer*. On their going away, the ſame perſon who gave the *nuzzer* repreſented, it was cuſtomary for one ſet to dance, and to receive *enam* for a gratification; and I gave them more money than the amount of their *nuzzer*.

However, although I would not receive any benefit from their preſent, yet I thought I was at liberty to apply their offers to their own advantage. Conſidering the miſerable ſtate of thoſe women, a prey to the moſt loathſome diſtempers, and ſpreading infection around them; many of them, when diſeaſed, through careleſſneſs, neglecting themſelves, and others ſo poor that they cannot afford to pay for their cure, I propoſed what I thought would be for their relief. I determined to keep ten black doctors conſtantly to attend thoſe women, and to give them medicines when diſordered. For the poorer ſort, I was to have provided a houſe, or kind of hoſpital, where they were to remain, while under cure, and to be ſupplied with diet and cloathing, with other regulations, ſuch as appeared to me proper. After I had ſettled the plan, in which I had the conſent of the greateſt part of the women themſelves, and actually taken the doctors into ſervice, I then directed my people to apply to theſe women for their ſhares of the *ſelaamy*, which they had before voluntarily offered. Such was my ſcheme, and I found it approved by all who heard of it. Yet where is the deſign, in itſelf ever ſo good, which falſehood cannot blacken and malice pervert? What I propoſed for the good of a parcel of wretched, unthinking creatures, as well as to prevent the moſt pernicious infection from ſpreading in our ſettlement, has been ſet forth in ſuch a light, as to be conſtrued into a mean practice of *taking money from the whores*.

What I have mentioned, I do not deſire ſhould ſtand on my own bare aſſertion; there are ſeveral witneſſes to prove theſe circumſtances, who I deſire may be called, to declare, upon oath, what they know of this affair. In the mean time, I requeſt the board will appoint ſome other gentleman to take

take charge of the Collectorſhip, as I cannot think of acting any longer in an office where I have been treated with ſuch indignity, and where the Preſident leſſens my authority with thoſe immediately under my charge.

This ſubject concluded, I think it behoves me to take the preſent opportunity of remarking to the board, that although it is now above three weeks ſince I called upon Lord *Clive* to make known the reports which had been propagated to the prejudice of my character, nothing has yet been laid before them. I underſtand great pains have been taken to collect informations againſt me, but, ſecure on the baſis of a conſcience which ever deteſted mean actions, I defy all reſearches and inquiries. I have great reaſon to ſuſpect, that thoſe may be employed, and ſtretched to their utmoſt extent, to ſeek for flaws or errors in my conduct; but that little regard will be paid to whatever may tend to the benefit of my character. Pretexts to diſapprove may be eaſily found by thoſe who are greedy to condemn, or make the world condemn; but I truſt candour and reaſon will juſtify a conduct which hath ever been directed by a good intention: and I now call upon Lord *Clive* to declare, whether, previous to the requeſt I made to have the informations laid before the board (and to which he replied, that it was not his intention to have laid them before the board, had it not been of my own ſeeking) he did not mention it in private companies, ſo that a report was propagated in the ſettlement, that he was poſſeſſed of accuſations to the detriment of my character. The anſwer of his lordſhip, which was made at Council three weeks ago, implied plainly, that he had at that time accuſations againſt me. I have a right to inſiſt, and now demand, that thoſe be immediately laid before the board; otherwiſe it muſt appear to the world, that he then threw out, at random, reports to the injury of my character, without foundation; and that he has been *ſince hunting for informations to endeavour to ſupport them*, leſt if he did not make good a charge againſt me, he might ſuffer diſcredit.

At the ſame time that I deſired Lord *Clive* to make the information public, I required of the board to afford me a candid, open, and impartial inquiry: what I have not only a right to, as one of their own body, but as a ſubject of a free government. How inconſiſtent with every part of this requeſt, the ranſacking different parts of the country for accuſations, impriſoning people whom I have had in my employ, or been otherwiſe connected with, and exerciſing ſeverities upon them, to drive them to give informations to my prejudice, are, is what I ſubmit to your judgment: for my own part, I think a method of proceeding ſo contrary to equity, and the known laws of our land, muſt of itſelf overſet any accuſations it produces, and acquit me to the world. But not chooſing to ſubject myſelf implicitly to ſuch abuſe of power, I now call upon this board immediately to protect me and my ſervants from ſuch violence, and to ſupport me in an inquiry, free from the irregularities I complain of; otherwiſe I ſhall be obliged to relinquiſh the ſervice, informing my employers, that I am driven to ſuch a ſtep by the unheard-of violent and oppreſſive conduct of their Preſident.

(Signed) GEORGE GRAY.

The

The foregoing minute having been peruſed, Lord *Clive* alſo enters the following repreſentation on the ſame ſubject, as to the firſt part thereof.

I HAVE the honour to lay before the board a copy of a letter written to me by Mr. *Gray*, the 8th inſtant, in conſequence of an information and complaint which I had received of his levying money from the proſtitutes of *Calcutta*; a practice which I underſtand to have been prohibited by the Company, and which, I therefore, deſired him to ſuſpend, till he ſhould have proper authority for continuing it. I alſo trouble you with a copy of his anſwer to my letter; wherein he obſerves, that I ſeem to give a very ready and attentive ear to every information, or inſinuation to his prejudice: and adds, that he thinks there is juſtice in Mr. *Burdett*'s obſervation, "That I "ſeem determined to render the ſervice a burthen to thoſe who differ from "me in opinion."

It will always give me great concern, when any gentleman entertains ſuſpicions ſo derogatory from my real character, as thoſe mentioned by Mr. *Gray*; but as I can hear them with temper, and invalidate them by an appeal to my actions, my concern can never flow from any other motive, than the deſire I have to ſee our conſultations unanimous in the purſuit of one ſingle object, the Company's intereſt; and the hopes I had formed of finding every individual ſo juſtly ſatisfied with his own principles of conduct, as not to permit him to ſuppoſe they could effectually be attacked by the prejudices or credulity of any man. Be this as it may, I am determined to perform the duty, and ſupport the honour of government, by an impartial examination into every grievance, and by counteracting the deſigns of oppreſſion wherever they are preſented to my view, equally regardleſs of the ſhafts of calumny, and the reſentment of diſappointed ambition. Conſcious, as I am, of the impartial and diſintereſted part I have hitherto acted, I dare appeal to the hearts and voices of this board to determine, whether Mr. *Gray* and Mr. *Burdett*, in the obſervations they have thought proper to make upon my conduct, have not miſtaken a difference of principle for a difference of opinion. With regard to the purport of my letter to Mr. *Gray*, which ſeems to have given great offence to his dignity in office, it is now before you, and I deſire the favour of your ſentiments ſeverally on the following conſequential queſtions:

Whether the Preſident is not virtually at the head of every office? and in caſe of any new regulations being undertaken without the ſanction of the board, which he thinks diſhonourable, or diſadvantageous to the Company, whether he has not a right to call upon the perſons acting in ſuch office, to deſiſt from making ſuch regulations, till they have the conſent and approbation of the board? Is it not his duty to receive the petitions, and give ear to the complaints of thoſe who think themſelves injured, or oppreſſed?

(Signed) CLIVE.

The copies of the letters referred to by his lordſhip being peruſed, appear to correſpond exactly with thoſe produced by Mr. *Gray*.

The firſt queſtion propoſed by his lordſhip, being now put ſeverally to the members of the board, their anſwers thereto were taken as follow:

Mr. *Leyceſter* is of opinion, That the Governor is virtually at the head of every office, and has a right to examine into the management of it; but does not think that, if he finds new regulations taken without the ſanction of the board, he has a right to diſcontinue them of his own authority; as in half an hour the Council may at any time be aſſembled, and a member of the board in office can only receive orders from the Preſident and Council; and that therefore the Preſident, in ſuch caſes, ſhould ſummon a Council, and ſubmit the circumſtances to the deciſion of the board.

Mr. *Verelſt* thinks the Preſident has the right Lord *Clive* mentions.

General *Carnac* thinks he is the head of every office, and as ſuch has a right to ſuſpend the execution of any regulations, that are not warranted by the board.

To the other queſtion, the board unanimouſly reply in the affirmative.

Some diſcourſe and argument paſſing between his lordſhip and Mr. *Gray* on the ſubject of the foregoing repreſentations, concerning Mr. *Gray*'s receiving money from the proſtitutes of the ſettlement, his lordſhip, upon a declaration made by Mr. *Gray*, entered the following minute:

Lord *Clive* thinks any atteſted papers of Mr. *Gray*'s not intending to receive the money from the proſtitutes, unneceſſary; as he has declared, in the preſence of this board, that he ſhould not have thought it wrong to receive the money from them on his own account.

Lord *Clive* farther lays before the board the following minute; in anſwer to Mr. *Gray*'s, requiring the charges which he might be poſſeſſed of againſt him:

The candid proceedings of the Select Committee upon a late occaſion, having been cloſed and tranſmitted to the Court of Directors, I was in hopes the gentlemen of Council would have readily acquieſced with the expediency of the meaſures that had been purſued, nor have called for new matter to prove the neceſſity of a thorough reformation. It was not my intention, much leſs was it my deſire, to enter farther into ſubjects of ſo diſagreeable and odious a nature, unleſs obliged thereto, by ſuch additional complaints as my duty might forbid me to conceal. It is true, that freſh complaints, prejudicial to Mr. *Gray*'s character, and detrimental to his credit, as he expreſſes himſelf, in his minute of the 25th *September*, have been laid before me; and it is no leſs true, that I wiſhed to ſee them accommodated, without being driven to the neceſſity of troubling the Committee, or Council, with facts and circumſtances which humanity would perſuade me not to make public. Mr. *Gray* however has called upon me for them, in order to give him an opportunity of vindicating his injured reputation; and this he ſeems certain of being able to accompliſh, ſince he demands the charge with that unembarraſſed confidence which is properly aſſumed by accuſed innocence. I ſhall, therefore, with the leſs anxiety, lay before the board, agreeably to Mr. *Gray*'s requeſt, in a few days, the imputations I am deſired to produce; which, however ſtrong in appearance, will, I hope, fail to impeach a conduct ſuperior to all excuſe, and fearleſs of all accuſations.

Mr.

Mr. *Gray*, totally ignorant of the cauſe of *Daviſing*'s confinement, requeſts he may be ſet at liberty. This board will permit me to acquaint them, that the Rajah is not confined in order to extort evidence againſt Mr. *Gray*, as that gentleman, in his minute above-mentioned, is pleaſed to aſſert; but on no leſs an occaſion *than arrears of rent*, amounting to many lacks of rupees, due to the government. *Meer Burkutt Ulla*, and others, are alſo under confinement, on account of deficiences in their payment of revenues; which deficiencies they alledge to have partly ariſen from ſums extorted, and preſents made to certain gomaſtahs and inferior agents, ſome of whom have taken great liberties with Mr. *Gray*'s name.

(Signed) CLIVE.

And Mr. *Gray* propoſes the following queſtions ſeparately to Lord *Clive*, and the other members of the board, which he requeſts they will ſeverally pleaſe to reply to.

Queſtions to Lord *Clive*.

Have you not, ſubſequent to my minute of the 20th *September*, been ſeeking charges againſt me? Or was you, at that time, in poſſeſſion of complaints to authorize the imputations thrown out againſt me? And could it be out of tenderneſs to me that, while the moſt injurious uſe was made of ſuch informations, you wiſhed to avoid entering on a public explanation?

Have you authorized any perſon to demand, by threats of guards and puniſhment, private letters of mine, or papers, or accounts touching my fortune or connections?

Whether your lordſhip, being a juſtice of the peace, and of courſe knowing you ought to be guardian of the liberty of the ſubject, hath not placed military guards over inhabitants of this ſettlement, and particularly over men with whom I have been connected, and ſubſequent to my calling on your lordſhip to ſet forth any charges againſt me?

Whether you did not give a perwânah to *Bolakydaſs*, aſſuring him he might carry on his buſineſs with confidence? And, on your return to *Calcutta*, finding this man a ſuitor to the board, for recovery of a ſum of money lent to the Company in 1763, in a time of diſtreſs, which ſurely intitled him to the Company's favour and protection, whether your lordſhip did not ſend a *Chubdár* to order him to quit the ſettlement, when it was known that the harpies and ſpies of *Mahommed Reza Khawn* and *Juggutſeat*, his known enemies, were hovering about to ſeize him the moment he quitted *Calcutta*?

Whether, after thus turning out a man under the board's protection, you did not, in a few days, ſend for him back? Whether you have not ſince received him with favour? And whether you have not been endeavouring to collect from this man information againſt me?

If you heard complaints againſt me, why did you not rather inform me of them yourſelf, than mention them to others privately, by which a ſuſpicion was raiſed of my character, which I could have no opportunity of clearing up?

Queſtions to the ſeveral Members of the Board.

Whether it is agreeable to equity and the laws of our conſtitution, for the Preſident to ſeize, with military guards, the civil inhabitants of this ſettlement, reſiding under the protection of our flag, either merchants, ſervants to *Britiſh* ſubjects, or others; and to place military guards upon their houſes, perſons, and properties; or to demand, by uſe of force, threats, or other harſh means, any informations, papers, or other matters, or things tending to the injury of *Britiſh* ſubjects, or thoſe under the protection of his Majeſty's charter?

Whether informations ſo obtained are of any validity in courts of law or equity?

Whether ſuch practices are not deſtructive of the trade, peace, and ſecurity of the ſettlement, by being a breach of that hoſpitality, protection, and confidence, by which all well regulated communities flouriſh?

Whether a conduct which muſt deter men of property from reſiding in the ſettlement is not injurious to the Company?

Whether the Governor of the ſettlement has the priviledge, in time of profound peace, to employ the Company's ſoldiers to ſeize our inhabitants, or place them over their houſes?

Whether, on information on oath, laid before one of his Majeſty's Juſtices by an inhabitant of this ſettlement, that his houſe has been aſſaulted, or perſon ſeized by a band of armed men, whether ſuch Juſtice can refuſe to iſſue a warrant, in order to commit to gaol, or bind over to the peace, ſuch aſſailants, or their abettors?

Whether ſuch attempts to degrade a member of this board in the eyes of the ſervants of the Company, to depreciate thus the credit and character of one of his Majeſty's juſtices and judges, in a ſettlement over which his juriſdiction extends, is becoming in Lord *Clive*, whether conſidered as a Preſident of this Council, or as one of the King's juſtices, bound by oath to afford protection, and render juſtice to every man who claims it?

Agreed, that copies of theſe queſtions be delivered to the ſeveral gentlemen, that they may give in their anſwers in writing.

COPY of the Proceedings of the Bench of his Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace for the Town of Calcutta, *held the* 18*th of* October 1765. *Preſent*,

The Right Honourable Lord *Clive*, Preſident,
William Brightwell Sumner,
Harry Verelſt, and
Ralph Leycester, Eſquires.

Mr. Verelst acquaints the bench, that Mr. *Gray* waited upon him this morning, and informed him that, underſtanding ſome people were ſtationed as a guard over the perſon and houſe of *Ramnaut*, he had brought with him two gentlemen, Meſſrs. *Francis Peacock* and *Walter Brown*, to give their depoſitions;

poſitions on the occaſion; and deſired a warrant of Mr. *Verelſt* to ſeize ſuch armed men, and their abettors, who therefore requeſted a bench of juſtices might be ſummoned to take the ſubject into conſideration.

Mr. *Francis Peacock* being now called upon to give his evidence, depoſeth, upon oath, as follows:

That he, accompanied by Mr. *Walter Brown*, went to the houſe of *Ramnaut*, where they found a ſeapoy with a fixt bayonet, who refuſed them admittance; upon which, he told the centinel, they had ſome buſineſs with the ſaid *Ramnaut*, and deſired to ſpeak to him. To this the ſeapoy replied, it was Lord *Clive*'s orders that no one ſhould ſee him, and that he was to be kept a cloſe priſoner in his room. In the mean time, a ſervant of *Ramnaut*'s came out to them, and aſked if they would not come in. The evidence then aſked the ſeapoy a ſecond time for admittance, who again refuſed it; ſaying, it was Lord *Clive*'s and the Major's orders, that no perſon ſhould have entrance. Upon which *Ramnaut*'s ſervant informed them, that during the firſt part of his confinement he was allowed to ſit out in his room, but now he was cloſely confined; and alſo, *that he had been plundered by the ſeapoys of money and jewels.* And further the deponent ſaith not.

(Signed) FRANCIS PEACOCK.

Mr. *Walter Brown* being ſworn as an evidence, depoſeth, That, on the 16th *October* 1765, he went, with Mr. *Francis Peacock*, to the houſe of *Ramnaut*, in order to ſpeak with him, but when he came there, he found a number of ſeapoys in the paſſage. That he aſked a centinel, with a fixed bayonet, if he might not have permiſſion to ſee *Ramnaut*; who told him he could not, as there were poſitive orders for no perſon whomſoever to be admitted. He then aſked the ſeapoy, by whoſe orders he was placed there? To which he replied, by the Major's, according to Lord *Clive's* orders. And further the deponent ſaith not.

(Signed) WALTER BROWN.

Mr. *Leyceſter* requeſts the proclamation, iſſued by his Majeſty's juſtices for the town of *Calcutta*, and diſtricts thereof, at their quarter ſeſſions holden for the ſaid town, on the 3d of *June* 1762, may be read, of which the following is a copy.

A PROCLAMATION.

It is needleſs to enlarge upon the benefits which will accrue to the body of this town, and to every individual thereof, by a free and impartial adminiſtration of the laws of *England* to the inhabitants in general, of whatever caſt or profeſſion. Nothing can ſo effectually ſecure the perſons and properties of the people. In the Company's other Proſidencies the inhabitants have long enjoyed this benefit, as they have had the authority of his Majeſty's gracious charter: but in *Bengal*, political reaſons, ariſing from the reſtraints laid upon our ſettlements by the country government, have hitherto prevented the free

exerciſe

exerciſe of the excellent laws thereby diſpenſed. Theſe reaſons no longer ſubſiſting, it is the intention of the court to put the laws of *England* in force againſt all offences that may be committed in the town of *Calcutta*, and diſtricts thereof, deſigned by the charter, of which intention the court have thought proper to give this public notice and warning.

Mr. *Gray* delivers in the following information, having previouſly ſworn to the truth of it.

Mr. *Gray* acquaints the juſtices, that he was informed, by *Ramnaut*'s ſervants, that a guard of armed men were upon the houſe of the ſaid *Ramnaut*, who confined the ſaid *Ramnaut* very cloſely, and who had taken ſundry things from him, and had uſed him ſeverely in other reſpects. That hereupon Mr. *Gray* ſent the two gentlemen who have given their depoſitions, to ſee whether there were actually a guard upon the ſaid *Ramnaut*'s houſe, or not; and to aſk him, whether he was ſo ill treated as the ſaid ſervant had declared, or not? The two gentlemen returning, brought the information they have depoſed to, and Mr. *Gray*, as a juſtice of the peace, and bound to take notice of whatever he deemed contrary to the laws and privileges of the charter, went, accompanied by Meſſrs. *Francis Peacock* and *Walter Brown*, to Mr. *Verelſt*, juſtice of the peace, to deſire a warrant might be iſſued to apprehend the armed men, who committed, or were committing theſe violent and tumultuous acts. Mr. *Verelſt* refuſed to grant any warrant, or take depoſitions from the above witneſſes.

Upon this information Mr. *Verelſt* deſired Mr. *Gray* might be aſked, if he did not reply to Mr. *Gray*, that he would deſire a bench of juſtices immediately to ſit and determine upon the matter, and likewiſe ordered the evidences to attend for that purpoſe. That this happened exactly at a quarter before nine this morning, and the juſtices met exactly half an hour after nine.

Mr. *Gray* informs the bench, that it was ſo; and that he replied, that every moment the man continued under this improper confinement, it was ſo much detriment to him; and that it was poſſible, during this delay, the people who committed this violence might make their eſcape, or words to that effect.

Mr. *Leyceſter* aſks the opinion of the juſtices, whether any man living within the precincts of his Majeſty's courts, can, or ought to be confined by military guards longer than is neceſſary to deliver him up to the civil magiſtrates?

Lord *Clive* informs the bench, that he has received numberleſs complaints from *Mahommed Reza Khawn*, and others, of extortion and oppreſſion committed by *Ramnaut*; that his lordſhip has ſeveral evidences which he will lay before the Governor and Council, and which is the reaſon of his not delivering him over to the civil power, until it is determined whether he is to be delivered up to the Nabob.

Mr. *Leyceſter* repeats his former queſtion: and further aſks the bench, whether Lord *Clive*, being in poſſeſſion of any accuſations whatever againſt *Ramnaut*,

naut, is a ſufficient plea for detaining him ſo long under military confinement, and whether he ſhall be any longer confined?

Mr. *Leycester* is of opinion, that as two men have depoſed, upon oath, before this bench, that they have themſelves ſeen the houſe of a perſon reſiding in *Calcutta* beſet with a body of armed men, a warrant ſhould be immediately iſſued to apprehend ſuch aſſailants and diſturbers of the peace, and ſecurity of thoſe living under the protection of his Majeſty's charter.

Mr. *Verelſt* minutes it as his opinion, that there is not ſufficient reaſon for a warrant to be granted.

Mr. *Sumner* informs the bench, that conſidering him as an inhabitant of *Maldah*, and ſubject to the laws of the country-government, and to be delivered up to *Mahommed Reza Khawn* in caſe theſe accuſations are proved againſt him, on an examination before the board, he thinks *Ramnaut* ſhould be continued under confinement, and that the military guards ſhould be tried by the civil power, provided they have robbed or deprived *Ramnaut* of any of his goods.

Lord *Clive* is of opinion, that the evidences which have been given, being only from hearſay, are not ſufficient grounds for iſſuing a warrant.

A true copy.

(Signed) EDWARD BABER, Clerk.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Preſident and Council at Calcutta, *on the* 18*th* October 1765.

The board, except General *Carnac* and Mr. *Gray*, having, before they ſat in Council, aſſembled as a bench of his Majeſty's juſtices, ſummoned by Mr. *Verelſt*, upon a repreſentation made to him by Mr. *Gray*, touching the confinement of a ſervant of his with a guard of ſeapoys, a copy of their proceedings thereon is ordered to be entered on this conſultation, for the ſake of reference.

Lord *Clive* delivers in the following minute, in anſwer to Mr. *Gray*'s, and the queſtions propoſed by him to his lordſhip, at the conſultation of the 14th inſtant.

The only notice I think proper to take of the minute and queſtions produced by Mr. *Gray*, on *Monday* laſt, is by way of obſervation, that the extraordinary warmth with which he has expreſſed himſelf on the circumſtance of *Ramnaut*'s confinement, ſeems to imply, that he is a party concerned. Whether he is, or not, will be determined by this board from the proceedings.

And General *Carnac* and Mr. *Verelſt* enter the following minutes, upon the queſtions at the ſame time propoſed to the other members of the board.

The queſtions propoſed by Mr. *Gray*, being founded upon a ſuppoſition of facts for which there is no proof to this board more than bare aſſertions of his own, which ſeem principally actuated by reſentment, and only done to

draw.

draw forth the previous judgment of each member, before any fact is authenticated to ground ſuch judgment upon, General *Carnac* and Mr. *Verelſt* deem them unbecoming, highly injurious to the Governor, and unworthy an anſwer from them, as members of the board.

Mr. *Gray* enters the following minute, in reply to the foregoing from Lord *Clive*.

Lord *Clive* has no right to put any ſuch invidious conſtruction upon my endeavouring to procure juſtice due to *Ramnaut*. He has been in my employ; and I can plainly diſcern, that in attacking him, his lordſhip thinks he makes an indirect attack upon me. I will therefore defend him as long as I can; for I am convinced, that had not his lordſhip expected to have procured accuſations againſt me by this means, *Ramnaut* was a man too inconſiderable ever to have become an object of his notice. His lordſhip takes occaſion to evade an anſwer to my queries, under the foregoing pretence, which to me appears very inſufficient indeed; however, it undoubtedly intitles me to the liberty of putting what conſtructions I pleaſe upon his lordſhip's ſilence, and which I may not only paſs myſelf, but by ſtating the queries to the public, and informing them, that his lordſhip declined to anſwer, obtain their judgment alſo.

General *Carnac* and Mr. *Leyceſter* lay before the board the following minutes, on the ſubject of a debate which aroſe at the forementioned conſultation, touching the propriety of Lord *Clive*'s confinement of *Ramnaut*, Mr. *Gray*'s ſervant.

The General's Minute.

It having been induſtriouſly propagated, that General *Carnac* had aſſerted this to be a military government, to the total excluſion of the civil power; and as from what Mr. *Sumner* avows having been ſaid to him on this ſubject by Mr. *Leyceſter*, there is the greateſt reaſon to believe, that this ſcandalous and malicious report owes its riſe to that gentleman: to prove the falſhood of the allegation, the General appeals to the gentlemen who were preſent at the laſt Council, and he requeſts they will do that juſtice to his character, to declare the converſation that paſt between Mr. *Leyceſter* and him at that time, and their ſenſe of the ſame.

Mr. *Leyceſter*'s Minute.

A minute of Mr. *Gray*'s, on *Monday* laſt, having occaſioned ſome debate, Lord *Clive* in the courſe of it declared, That the Company's government in *Bengal* was a military government, as well as a civil one. The debate aroſe on a queſtion, whether the Preſident had the authority to confine our inhabitants by military guards, from inſtances which had really happened; the drift therefore of Lord *Clive*'s aſſertion was obvious. In this he was ſupported by General *Carnac*, who further added, that if it was thought I deſerved it,

it, he would not ſcruple to ſeize me with military guards, or words to that effect.

His Majeſty's gracious charter to the Company, the civil courts of juſtice, the court of oyer and terminer, and the authority of the King's judges and juſtices, ſeem by ſuch declarations to be entirely put out of the queſtion by theſe gentlemen. I tremble at the thought of being deprived of the indulgences and privileges of our conſtitution; and I call on you, gentlemen, not only as a Preſident and Council, but as a bench of the King's juſtices, to conſider the fatal tendency of ſuch an aſſumed authority over the civil rights of his Majeſty's ſubjects. How much does it behove you to guard thoſe bleſſed privileges from every innovation! How jealous ought you to be of them, in a region ſo remote from our mother-country!

When my ſtation, as a member of this government, my authority and quality as one of his Majeſty's judges and juſtices, protect me not from threats of military guards, what may not the inhabitants of a lower ſphere live in dread of? I appeal in the moſt ſolemn manner to you, gentlemen, as my fellow judges and juſtices; I call upon you, to protect the rights and privileges of the ſubjects, to free them from all apprehenſion of a military power. I demand, that the aſſertion of this being a military government be publicly exploded; that the authority of his Majeſty's juſtices be acknowledged in the moſt ample form, ſuperior to all military force; and that the guards be removed, by your orders, from the houſes of our inhabitants: that not only I, but the whole ſettlement, may in confidence and ſafety attend the Company's and our own concerns, and ſuch others as are intruſted to our management.

The inhabitants may juſtly be alarmed and aſtoniſhed at this unheard-of aſſertion of a military power over a *Britiſh* colony, and have a right now to expect ſuch a renunciation, to quiet, for the preſent, their apprehenſions: nor, conſidering myſelf as a juſtice, dare I ſeem by my ſilence to acquieſce in declarations ſo ſubverſive of our laws and conſtitution, or expoſe myſelf to be inſulted by hearing ſuch threats at your board.

(Signed) RALPH LEYCESTER.

Mr. *Leyceſter*, in conſequence of General *Carnac*'s minute, deſires the following queſtion may be put ſeverally to the members who were preſent on the occaſion:

Whether the aſſertions contained in his minute, concerning the General, are true, or falſe?

The queſtion being put accordingly,

Mr. *Gray*, after having, at his requeſt, been ſworn to the truth of his anſwer, delivered it as follows:

That he remembered, perfectly well, Lord *Clive*'s ſaying, this was a military as well as a civil government; that General *Carnac* ſupported the ſame, and after ſome arguments, which Mr. *Gray* does not particularly recollect, that the General actually did declare, that if he thought he deſerved it, he would not ſcruple to ſeize even himſelf.

Mr. *Verelſt* declares, that on Lord *Clive*'s obſerving, that this government was both a military as well as a civil government; the General joined in opinion, and ſupported the neceſſity of ſuch mixt government in ſuch a place as this is; though, at the ſame time, he declared, he was well acquainted with the difference of each, and would ſupport the civil; but that there were many inſtances, where the military power was abſolutely requiſite, particularly in the immediate ſeizure of perſons who might be guilty of atrocious crimes, to prevent their making their eſcape; that Mr. *Leycester*, differing in opinion, debates aroſe, when the General told him, that in ſuch an inſtance as before-mentioned, he would not ſcruple to ſeize him. Theſe, to the beſt of Mr. *Verelſt*'s knowledge, were the ſentiments the General expreſſed himſelf in.

Lord *Clive* minutes, that his ſentiments of what paſſed correſpond entirely with what Mr. *Verelſt* has related; but he does not recollect the particular words which paſſed previous to General *Carnac*'s declaration.

Theſe anſwers having been recorded, Mr. *Leycester* aſked the Secretary, whether he had attended to the diſcourſe which paſſed on the occaſion? and deſired, if he had, that he might relate the ſame to the board.

The board acquieſcing in Mr. *Leycester*'s deſire, the Secretary replied in the affirmative to his queſtion; but begged the permiſſion of the board to prepare his relation againſt their next meeting, in writing, that he might recollect himſelf particularly, and deliver it with more preciſion.

Mr. *Gray* delivers in the following reply to Lord *Clive*'s minutes, entered on conſultation the 14th inſtant.

Were we to found our opinion of his lordſhip's conduct from his declaration in his minute, it would appear all mildneſs, candour, and tenderneſs; but when facts ſeem to contradict his profeſſions, we are at a loſs how to reconcile a ſyſtem of behaviour which appears ſo oppoſite to the ſentiments he breathes.

A ſecond time has his lordſhip now quoted the candid proceedings of the Seleſt Committee, on a late occaſion. I ſhall obſerve, once for all, that however his lordſhip may think me or others indebted to his mercy on that occaſion, I do not in the leaſt think myſelf, or them ſo. He would ſeem to inſinuate, that an inquiry was diſagreeable to himſelf, and that the relentleſs board, not ſatisfied with the former inſtance of moderation, now called upon him to perform the odious taſk of producing new matter, to prove the neceſſity of reformation. His lordſhip acknowledges it is an odious taſk; it only requires to be known, whether his lordſhip himſelf, or who elſe was the occaſion of this inquiry, to find where the odium reſts. For my own part, I will declare my reaſons for demanding it, and now aver to this board, that before his lordſhip's arrival from *Illahabad*, I was informed he was collecting accuſations againſt me up the country; and I heard, he gave out I had committed extortions that, if known, would ſhock the ears of the world. I heard it was his intention to reſerve the ſubject of theſe complaints as a check on my opinion, whenever I ſhould dare to differ from him; and after his

his arrival I was informed, that the ſearch for informations was ſtill rigorouſly carried on at the city. Reports of this nature could not fail to give me concern. Still I waited with patience above a fortnight after his return, expecting he would himſelf communicate to me what was now become the topic of converſation, and ſubject of correſpondence to the whole ſettlement. But finding his lordſhip decline to afford me room for explanation, I was under the neceſſity of demanding it in public, more eſpecially as a ſhip was on the eve of diſpatch to *Europe*, where reports to my prejudice might be carried unconfuted. Whether his lordſhip acted, on that occaſion, a generous open part, or the reverſe; and whether the ſteps he has purſued ſince, in ſcraping together informations and accuſations from the meaneſt agents in detraction, are conſiſtent with his profeſſions of candour and moderation, I leave to the world to judge. In one circumſtance at leaſt he ſeems to deviate from conſiſtency. Had he been guided by the dictates of humanity, as he profeſſes, why did he divulge thoſe charges by inſinuations to others, as matters of fact; or had he been deſirous of ſeeing them accommodated without being driven to the neceſſity of laying them before the board, how came he not to inform me privately, and allow me an opportunity of an explanation with him?

The odious light in which his lordſhip has endeavoured to ſet forth the ſcheme I had propoſed for the relief of the proſtitutes of the town, as an inſtance of his counteracting the deſigns of oppreſſion, is an earneſt of the candour I have to expect from him. If a tranſaction upon the ſpot, under the eyes of the Council, and before the public, where the facts might ſo ſoon be proved or diſproved, is ſo miſrepreſented, what juſtice have I to expect in the courſe of thoſe other reſearches made by his lordſhip's induſtry, in a remote diſtrict, and among a ſet of people whoſe opinions are guided by their intereſts, and their declarations prompted by their hopes and fears.

Though the approbation of a man's own conſcience may render him ſatisfied with his own principles, yet we need not go far to ſeek for proof, that it is but little defence againſt the keen malevolence of ſlander and detraction, when ſupported by power and influence; and from what quarter the ſhafts of calumny are ſped, or ambitious reſentment flows, the impartial may decide.

As to Lord *Clive*'s third minute, where he has ſnatched up the expreſſion, that I ſhould not have thought it wrong to receive the money offered by the proſtitutes on my own account, I ſhall only obſerve, that when ſetting aſide facts, he is reduced to the neceſſity of ſeizing words for his own purpoſes; his argument muſt be greatly degraded in his own opinion. My real meaning was, that as this money was a voluntary preſent, I ſhould not have been obnoxious to the imputation of exaction, had I even received it on my own account. But it implies not that I would benefit by ſo mean an offe; my conduct is proof to the contrary: and as I had rectified and explained myſelf to Lord *Clive*, before he entered his minute, he had no right to take ſuch an unfair advantage. However, I confeſs I do not regret the miſtake of an expreſſion, which has given his lordſhip an opportunity of diſplaying his method of argumentation. At the ſame time, as his lordſhip ſeems deſirous to undervalue

and preclude every circumſtance in my favour, I think the atteſtations ſo much the more neceſſary; and therefore I deſire, that thoſe who were preſent in the *cutcherry*, when I firſt took charge of the collectorſhip, and other gentlemen whom I can call on, as being acquainted with my intentions, may appear, to declare, upon oath, what they know of this affair.

His lordſhip advances the neceſſity of a thorough reformation, his favourite theme. As it is one of the pillars on which he expects to raiſe his character, and to acquire eclat, it were to be wiſhed he would go on with his regulations, without injuring the characters of thoſe who preceded him in the adminiſtration, and content himſelf with the aſſurance, that if his meaſures are preferable to their's, they will ſufficiently diſtinguiſh themſelves. When he throws reflections on former governments, he ſhould conſider what abuſes might have exiſted formerly during his own; eſpecially the frauds in the new works, which, though they eſcaped his obſervation, did not that of his vigilant ſucceſſor, Mr. *Holwell*, who by his diligence brought them to light, yet had too much generoſity to caſt an odium on a former adminiſtration, to draw from thence any arguments for the neceſſity of a thorough reformation.

His lordſhip's principal aim ſeems to be levelled againſt receiving preſents from the people of the government. I, for my part, have never concealed from my friends, the advantages which my ſtation has offered me in this reſpect, before the execution of the covenants; but I totally diſclaim and diſavow ever having made uſe of improper means, or undue influence, to acquire ſuch advantages, or having received them for diſhonourable ends. If my ſervants have been guilty, it was without my knowledge or conſent, and let them be called to a fair and impartial trial. I do not make this declaration in any degree as a confeſſion of any charges Lord *Clive* has to produce; but I claim from it an occaſion, ſince retroſpects are begun and admitted, to ſtate to Lord *Clive* ſome doubts which have ariſen to me, as they may probably to many others, touching his conduct: which I ſhall be happy in affording his lordſhip an opportunity of clearing up, to the ſatisfaction of the world. For this purpoſe I propoſe to him the following queries:

1ſt. What was the purport and meaning of the fictitious treaty, ſigned by the Select Committee in *May*, 1757, by his lordſhip's deſire; and wherein did it differ from the real one, ſigned at the ſame time?

2d. Whether the intent of this treaty was not to deceive *Omichund*?

3d. Whether *Omichund* was not, by this deception, deprived of a large ſum of money, from * twenty-five to thirty-five lacks of rupees, which he had been promiſed, and made to expect?

4th. Whether that, or ſome ſuch ſum, was not ſtipulated before the acceſſion of *Meer Jaffier*, and afterward divided amongſt ſundry gentlemen?

5th. Whether Lord *Clive*, then Colonel *Clive*, had not a principal ſhare in ſuch diſtribution?

6th. Whether Admiral *Watſon* did not refuſe to ſign this fictitious treaty, deeming it derogatory from his own character, as a *Britiſh* officer? and whether,

* From 312,000 *l.* to 437,000 *l.* ſterling.

ther, notwithſtanding this refuſal, his name did not afterwards appear affixed to this treaty?

7th. Whether the argument for excluding Admiral *Watſon* from a ſhare of this ſum was not, that he refuſed to put his hand to this fictitious treaty?

8th. Whether it is not for a ſhare of this ſum, ſtipulated with *Meer Jaffier* before the battle of *Plaſſey*, that the heirs of Admiral *Watſon* are now proſecuting?

9th. Whether, if it was adviſeable, for public conſiderations, to deceive *Omichund*, or though he had rendered himſelf unworthy of ſo large a reward; whether, I aſk, was it becoming in Lord, then Colonel *Clive*, to receive a large proportion of ſuch ſum for his own uſe, inſtead of appropriating it to the public ſervice; or by remitting it all together to *Meer Jaffier*, enable him the ſooner to diſcharge his public engagements to the *Engliſh*?

(Signed) GEORGE GRAY.

The foregoing minute having been peruſed, and Lord *Clive* proceeding to lay before the board a part of his charges againſt Mr. *Gray*, agreeably to the purpoſe of their preſent meeting, Mr. *Gray*, upon a declaration made by his lordſhip in the courſe of ſome previous converſation, entered the following farther minute:

Previous to any inquiry, I muſt repreſent to the board, that as Lord *Clive* has now declared before them, that he is determined to collect every information and evidence againſt me which he can, I conſider him as an accuſer, or at leaſt himſelf an evidence; and therefore I object againſt his ſitting in judgment on my conduct.

Lord *Clive* replies, that he was diſpoſed, from motives of humanity, to conceal many charges which have been communicated to him againſt Mr. *Gray*; but as he ſeems not ſatisfied with this, but has publicly demanded their being laid before the board, his lordſhip thinks, that juſtice ſhould now take place of humanity, and that it is his duty, as Governor, to lay before the board every circumſtance whatever which may come to his knowledge, and that he ſhall do it accordingly.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Preſident and Council at Calcutta, *on the* 28*th October*, 1765.

General *Carnac* deſires to enter the following atteſtation, on the ſubject of the debate which occurred at the conſultation of the 14th inſtant, referred to in his and Mr. *Leyceſter*'s minutes, entered on the proceedings of the 18th.

I do ſolemnly ſwear, that I never had an idea of ſetting this up as a military government, being too well acquainted with the bleſſings of our civil conſtitution ever to wiſh to ſee a military government eſtabliſhed upon it's ruins. In the debate which happened at the conſultation of the 14th inſtant, and which owes it's riſe to a queſtion, whether the Preſident was authorized to place ſeapoys over *Ramnaut*, and not, as is falſely aſſerted in Mr. *Leyceſter*'s minute, whether the Preſident had authority to confine our inhabitants by military

military guards, I declare upon oath, to the beſt of my recollection, the following was the purport of the converſation between Mr. *Leyceſter* and me:

I obſerved there were emergencies which rendered next to abſolutely neceſſary the having recourſe at times to military force, and particularly inſtanced the caſe of notorious offenders, who were endeavouring to, and might otherwiſe evade public juſtice: under which circumſtances, I aſſerted, I would myſelf execute military power. Mr. *Leyceſter* then ſaid repeatedly, he wiſhed I would do ſo by him. Being before warm with argument, and by his behaviour rendered more ſo, I replied with heat, that were even he in ſuch a caſe, I would be the firſt to ſeize him at the head of a party of ſeapoys.

And the General was accordingly ſworn to the ſame.

Lord *Clive* alſo delivers in, upon oath, the following declaration on the ſubject:

Some debates ariſing relative to the confinement of *Ramnaut*, wherein the Preſident obſerved this was a mixed government, a military as well as civil government, I do moſt ſolemnly ſwear, to the beſt of my memory and judgment, that the General expreſſed himſelf in the following manner, or words to that purpoſe.

The General declared, that he knew the difference between the military and civil power, and that he would always ſupport the latter; but that there were caſes of emergency, where notorious offenders wanted to eſcape from juſtice, when he would make uſe of military guards to ſeize ſuch: upon which Mr. *Leyceſter* replied, he ſhould not, or dared not to take him up. The General anſwered, in ſuch an inſtance he himſelf would go at the head of ſix ſeapoys, and ſeize him by the collar, and drag him to juſtice. Both the General and Mr. *Leyceſter* expreſſed themſelves with great warmth.

And Mr. *Verelſt*, at his deſire, was ſworn to the truth of his relation on the ſubject entered on the ſaid conſultation of the 18th inſtant.

Theſe atteſtations having been taken,

Mr. *Leyceſter* requeſts the Secretary may be called upon for his evidence of what paſſed, which he before deſired might appear.

But the General deſires previouſly to put the following queſtions to Mr. *Majendie*, and that he will reply to them on oath.

Queſtion the firſt.

Whether he was not, at the time of the debate, actually employed in writing?

Queſtion the ſecond.

If he heard *the whole* of the converſation between Mr. *Leyceſter* and the General, on the ſubject of the conſtitution of this government; and if he can upon oath declare *the particular expreſſions* made uſe of by either of them?

And

And the queſtions being therefore put accordingly;

Mr. *Majendie* replied to them, on oath, as follows:

To the firſt, that he was partly engaged in writing at the time of the debate, but that his attention was very much ſo with what paſſed on the occaſion.

In anſwer to the ſecond queſtion, Mr. *Majendie* begs to refer to his relation, which he mentions he has prepared upon the beſt of his recollection, in the ſame manner as the gentlemen of the board have delivered in their atteſtations, and contains *the impartial whole*, ſo far as appeared to him neceſſary to be noticed.

He adds, that he cannot venture poſitively to declare, that *no particular expreſſions* eſcaped him, but is ready to anſwer any queſtions which may be put to him, to determine this point.

Mr. *Majendie*'s relation being then required, he firſt ſubmitted to the board the following minute, which he brought prepared with it:

Conſidering my junior rank in the ſervice, together with the office which I have the honour to hold in it, of Secretary to this Council, I could wiſh, upon ſo particular an occaſion as I have been called upon for my evidence at laſt *Friday*'s Council, to be wholly excuſed from entering any; but if the honourable board ſhould ſtill think proper to have it appear, I hope they will, for thoſe reaſons, allow me the ſatisfaction of doing it only on oath.

(Signed) WILLIAM MAJENDIE.

And the board eſteeming his repreſentation therein very juſt, he was accordingly ſworn to the truth of his evidence, as follows.

To the beſt of my recollection, what paſſed in the debate which aroſe at the conſultation of the 14th inſtant, touching the propriety of Lord *Clive*'s ſeizure and confinement of Mr. *Gray*'s ſervant, *Ramnaut*, with a guard of ſeapoys, is as follows. His Lordſhip, in ſupport of that proceeding, urged, that this was a military as well as civil government; and General *Carnac* joined him in the argument in the ſame terms, explaining himſelf, by alledging, that there were many caſes in which the uſe of the military force here was abſolutely requiſite preferably to the civil; ſuch, for inſtance, as the immediate ſeizure of perſons, upon the imputation or ſuſpicion of villainous actions; to prevent their eſcape, which could not be ſo ſurely effected with the few civil officers we entertain. This Mr. *Leyceſter* ſtrongly denied, and objected to, aſſerting, that our civil power was fully ſufficient to apprehend any perſon, and prevent his eſcape, and could do it with equal expedition: that no military force ſhould ever be uſed, unleſs called upon by the civil magiſtrate; and that if any ſuch ſhould attempt the ſeizure of a ſervant of his, or any other perſon, without that authority, he would, in virtue of his quality and office, as one of his Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace, of which he ſhould conſider ſuch proceedings as an open violation, immediately commit the perſon or perſons employed on the occaſion. Hereupon the General repeated the neceſſity for the uſe of a military force in ſome caſes; and Mr. *Leyceſter* ſtill arguing againſt it,

the

the General told him, he would not only ſeize his ſervants or others in that manner, but himſelf, if he thought he deſerved it.

(Signed) WILLIAM MAJENDIE, Sec.

Lord *Clive* now puts the following queſtion to Mr. *Leyceſter*, requiring his anſwer thereto, on oath:

Whether the whole of the converſation which paſſed between General *Carnac* and him on the ſubject of the conſtitution of this government, is contained in his minute on the ſubject?

To which Mr. *Leyceſter* replies, upon oath accordingly, that the minute contains ſuch part of the converſation as occurred to him at the time he wrote it; and that, upon the atteſtations now delivered in, he recollects ſome circumſtances which had before entirely eſcaped him.

His Lordſhip further aſks Mr. *Leyceſter*,

Whether he has not communicated the contents of his minute to ſome others beſides the members of the board?

And Mr. *Leyceſter* anſwers thereto in the affirmative.

Lord *Clive* now enters the following minute, in reply to Mr. *Gray*'s late queſtions, put to him, and his and Mr. *Leyceſter*'s minutes.

LORD CLIVE'S Minute.

Although I do not think myſelf obliged to anſwer any of Mr. *Gray*'s queſtions, nor imagine that, were they anſwered agreeably to his expectations, they would in the leaſt exculpate him, if the facts with which he and his agents are charged ſhould be fully proved, yet as Mr. *Gray* may hope that my anſwers will be of ſervice to his cauſe, I ſhall, with great pleaſure, indulge him with particular anſwers to the ſeveral queſtions he has put to me in his minutes of the 14th and 18th inſtant.

Anſwer to the firſt.

In anſwer to his firſt query, I declare, that I have had in my poſſeſſion for upwards of two months ſundry authentic papers, accuſing Mr. *Gray* and his gomaſtahs of having received ſeveral ſums of money by extortion and other methods; which papers I ſhall lay before the board for their more particular information. And I do further declare, that it was not my intention to make any uſe of theſe papers againſt Mr. *Gray*, unleſs I had found him ſtill perſevere in the practice of unwarrantable means to obtain money, or unleſs he had called upon me in the manner he has done, by his minute of the 25th *September*, 1765.

Anſwer to the ſecond.

I do declare, upon my honour, that I never authorized any perſon whomſoever to demand, by threats of guards or puniſhment, any of Mr. *Gray*'s private letters, or papers, or accounts, touching his fortune and connections.

Anſwer

Anſwer to the third.

I have placed military guards upon two men only. The evidence upon oath before the board, as well as before the committee, will convince the Court of Directors of the neceſſity of ſecuring one of them; the other, *Ramnaut*, now confined, is under charge of being a moſt notorious offender; he is accuſed of facts which, if proved true, muſt condemn him to very exemplary puniſhment; and he was confined to his houſe by a guard, upon intelligence I received, that he was going to fly the country. That I have placed a military guard upon any one ſince Mr. *Gray* called upon me to produce evidences againſt him, is utterly falſe.

Anſwer to the fourth.

I did write a perwanah to *Bolakydaſs*, in anſwer to a letter from him, the beginning of *July* laſt; but when I heard, from *Juggutſeat*, what an enemy he had been to their fathers, I forbad him to come into my preſence, and upon my arrival ordered him to quit *Calcutta*. But upon Mr. *Gray*'s minute, I ordered *Bolakydaſs* back again, to give the evidence I had before been informed of concerning *Ramnaut*'s conduct, in which Mr. *Gray* ſeems to be ſtrongly intereſted; and I ſhall certainly not decline to receive complaints of ſuch grievances as affect the honour or advantage of the Company; nor will there be any occaſion, as Mr. *Gray* alledges there will, to make uſe of force or threats to obtain them. With regard to harpies and ſpies being employed to ſeize *Bolakydaſs*, when he quitted *Calcutta*, I never knew nor heard of any. I have given *Bolakydaſs* no encouragement; ſo far from it, I have told him, that when he has given his evidence upon oath, he muſt not expect the liberty of reſiding in *Calcutta*.

As to the laſt query, it will be time enough to anſwer it when Mr. *Gray* gives me the names of his authors.

I now proceed to trouble you with remarks upon and anſwers to ſome other queries contained in Mr. *Gray*'s minute of the 14th inſtant, which are intended as a ſevere attack upon my honour, and therefore require particular attention. And though I flatter myſelf that my character ſtands too high in the opinion of mankind to be wounded by ſuch an accuſer, or by *ſuch accuſations*, yet it may not be improper for me to ſhew, that Mr. *Gray*'s inſinuations are moſt of them void of all foundation, and that even thoſe which have a foundation, are moſt baſely and injuriouſly ſtated.

In the minute before us, Mr. *Gray* recurs to my former adminiſtration in the year 1757, and accuſes me of neglect at that time, in not diſcovering certain frauds in the new works. Mr. *Gray* was aſked, whether by mentioning that circumſtance he meant to inſinuate that I had been any ways concerned in thoſe frauds, and he declared he did not. Mr. *Gray* dares not declare otherwiſe: and yet one would imagine ſuch an inſinuation was intended; for the gentleman could not mean ſeriouſly to accuſe me of neglect, in not laying before the Council thoſe frauds which never came to my ears or knowledge. Of

a nature equally falſe and malicious is the purport of his queries concerning the fictitious treaty, in *May*, 1757, to which I return the following anſwer.

When Mr. *Watts*'s negotiation at *Murſhedabad* with *Meer Jaffier* and *Roy Doolub*, was brought ſo near to a concluſion, that the treaty itſelf was drawn out, wherein it was ſpecified, that a hundred lacks ſhould be paid to the Company, fifty lacks to the *European* ſufferers, twenty lacks to the natives, and ſeven lacks to the *Armenians*, *Portugueſe*, *&c.* *Omichund*, who had accompanied Mr. *Watts* to the city, was ſo far from being ſatisfied with what was to fall to his ſhare, that he declared, unleſs a very large ſum (to the beſt of my remembrance it was not leſs than fifty lacks) was ſtipulated for himſelf in particular, and unleſs he ſhould alſo be allowed five *per cent.* on all *Serajah Dowlah*'s treaſure, he would divulge the ſecrets of the whole negotiation. Theſe circumſtances Mr. *Watts* immediately communicated to me, expreſſing the moſt dreadful apprehenſions of the conſequences, and intreating me to get *Omichund* down to *Calcutta*, and ſatisfy him, or we ſhould all be undone.

When I conſidered, that the lives of ſo many *Britiſh* ſubjects were concerned in the event of this affair, as well as that the whole of the poſſeſſions of the Company and of individuals was at ſtake, I did not heſitate a moment to determine upon a ſcheme that ſhould ſecure the ſucceſs of our plan, and at the ſame time diſappoint the expectations of ſo *treacherous a villain*. For theſe purpoſes I myſelf propoſed there ſhould be two treaties, a real one and a fictitious one: the latter I intended merely as a deception to *Omichund*. This propoſal was unanimouſly approved by the Gentlemen of the Select Committee; and were we again in the like circumſtances, I ſhould moſt certainly think myſelf authorized to act in the ſame manner.

That Mr. *Watſon* did not ſign the fictitious treaty is matter of fact; but I can with the greateſt truth at the ſame time affirm, that he gave another gentleman leave to ſign it for him, and to affix his ſeal.

With regard to thoſe baſe queſtions, whether the ſum ſtipulated in the fictitious treaty for *Omichund* was not ſtruck off on purpoſe to be afterwards divided among ſundry gentlemen, and whether I had not a principal ſhare in ſuch diſtribution, they have not the leaſt foundation in truth.

I do declare, upon my honour, I never did ſtipulate with *Meer Jaffier*, or any other perſon, directly or indirectly, either before or after the battle of *Plaſſey*, for any ſum or ſums of money whatever, the committee-money excepted. The Gentlemen of the Committee empowered me to write to Mr. *Watts* upon the ſubject of that money: at the ſame time he was ordered to ſtipulate for a donation for the navy and army. This tranſaction has been approved of by the Court of Directors under their own hands.

The heirs of Admiral *Watſon* are not ſuing for the money mentioned by Mr. *Gray*; they are ſuing for a ſhare of the committee-money, and no other: nor was ſuch an agreement as mentioned in Mr. *Gray*'s ſeventh query ever made or thought of by any gentleman to my knowledge.

The whole ſtring of queries having been formed by Mr. *Gray* upon a ſuppoſition that the money ſtipulated for *Omichund*, in the fictitious treaty, was received and divided among *Engliſh* gentlemen, which ſuppoſition being abſolutely falſe, I conclude no farther reply to them is neceſſary.

I ſhall

I ſhall now proceed to take notice of the general tendency of Mr. *Gray*'s and Mr. *Leyceſter*'s minutes jointly. They are at great pains to inſinuate, that I have infringed the liberty of the ſubject by the exertion of military force, and that I am endeavouring to ſubvert the laws and rights of our civil conſtitution. I beg leave to trouble you with my ſentiments on theſe ſubjects; and ſhall ſubmit to your judgment, whether my proceedings have been arbitrary, oppreſſive, or unprecedented.

As I am not a very young ſervant of the Company, and have been twice honoured with the preſidentſhip of this ſettlement, I think I may without vanity preſume, that my knowledge is not inferior to Mr. *Gray*'s or Mr. *Leyceſter*'s in the power and duties of a Governor.

The reſpect I have for the laws of my country will always prevent my exerciſing a military force to apprehend any *Britiſh* ſubject, unleſs in caſes of a very heinous nature, and when the offender might otherwiſe eſcape from the juſtice of a civil power, to whom he muſt of courſe be given up.

But with regard to the natives of *India*, *I cannot conſider them as Britiſh ſubjects*: and the Court of Directors have cautioned us againſt putting our laws in execution on them. Were we to conſider them as *Britiſh* ſubjects, our political government would be at an end. The power of the Governor and Council would be transferred to the Mayor's Court, and with it the whole * authority of the Company, as if the charter for the eſtabliſhment of that Court had been obtained to make the Mayor and Aldermen maſters over the Company. Beſides, were the natives within our diſtricts to be, on every occaſion, proſecuted by the laws of our country, the inns of court would hardly be able to ſupply us with a ſufficient number of lawyers; and the objection would nevertheleſs remain, that if the *Indians* will not of their own accord comply with the forms of the laws of *England*, we have no right to compel them; for what they have ſaid is true, that no prince has power or authority over the ſubjects of another prince, unleſs it be by their reſiding in his dominions, or by voluntary conceſſion, conſent, *&c.* and there are undoubtedly inſtances where the Company's ſervants could not juſtify themſelves, if they were to admit the natives to the benefit of our laws, even at their own requeſt. The Company's advantages and poſſeſſions in *India* are maintained by the civil joined with the military power. The adminiſtration of their ſettlements, ſo far as reſpects the ſubjects of *Great Britain*, is purely civil, except in ſuch caſes as come particularly under the cognizance of martial law; but the civil adminiſtration has a right to command the aſſiſtance of the military, in ſecuring offenders. This is allowed of by the laws of *England*, and is frequently practiſed, though the two powers there are rather more diſtinct than in *India*. Here the civil governor has a commiſſion, as a commander in chief of the forces, and as ſuch hath power in himſelf to exerciſe a military authority in ſupport of the civil. This is an inſtitution founded on a very wiſe and evident reaſon; for as the Governor muſt always have the earlieſt intelli-

* When Lord *Clive*'s right to the jagueer was diſputed by the Company, his lordſhip aſſigned as reaſons for not purſuing his remedy in the Mayor's Court, "that the Judges were "dependants upon the Company, that the appeal lay to their Preſident and Council, and "that even the perſon employed on his behalf muſt be dependant on the Company." See Lord *Clive*'s Letter to the Proprietors, 1764, page 56.

gence of matters relating to his government, and of importance to the public intereſt, it is neceſſary he ſhould be inveſted with the power of providing inſtantly for the ſecurity of the ſtate; nor can that power be very dangerous to the liberty of the ſubject, where military diſcipline is regulated upon the model of civil adminiſtration.

But we are not to imagine, that criminal actions alone endanger our principle of government. It is endangered by LICENTIOUSNESS, EXTORTION, VENALITY; by whatever eludes, though it may not openly violate; by whatever tends to weaken, though it may not totally ſubvert the laws. Theſe, among numberleſs other caſes, fall immediately under the obſervation of a Governor, and it is his duty to endeavour to eradicate them, with very exemplary ſeverity, when occaſion demands it. If in the execution of his office he is guilty of oppreſſion towards any of his Majeſty's ſubjects, an Act of Parliament points out a legal mode of redreſs. If his oppreſſion fall upon a ſubject of *the country government*, he is ſtill * amenable to juſtice. In any trifling cauſes eſpecially, againſt a *Britiſh* ſubject, a Governor will act merely as a Juſtice of the Peace; but in caſes which affect the Company's affairs, in caſes of a villainous nature between man and man, particularly extortion, which too often happens among the natives of this deſpotic empire, whether ſupported or not by us; in caſes where the temper, the moderation, the juſtice of the Company's government is concerned: in caſes of ſuch a nature, I ſay, a Governor will act not only as a Juſtice of the Peace, but as Governor. He will not only as a magiſtrate commit to confinement, but will, if he judge neceſſary, as Commander in Chief of the Forces, aſſume his military power, to prevent the offender's eſcape. If the deſcription I have given of the duty and authority of a Governor be a juſt one, the point before us requires no farther argument; and it will be a ſufficient anſwer to Mr. *Gray*'s queſtion, "Whether I, being a Juſtice of the Peace, have not placed military guards "over inhabitants of this ſettlement," to obſerve, that I, being a Juſtice of the Peace, did not, but that I, being a Governor, did, place military guards over *Mooteram* and *Ramnaut*, neither of them inhabitants of this ſettlement.

Were I, however, inclined to reſt the deciſion where I ſhould perhaps be juſtified in reſting it, upon the practice of former Governors, I could produce to this board a liſt of *no leſs than two-and-thirty precedents of black men, ſome of whom were counſellors banyans, being confined for months together under military guards*, by order of my predeceſſors, within theſe fourteen years paſt; and moſt of theſe precedents relate actually to inhabitants of *Calcutta*, whereas the caſe before us does not. *Ramnaut* is an inhabitant of *Maldah*, two hundred and fifty miles from *Calcutta*. His houſe, his family, are there, and he is only a ſojourner at this ſettlement; an agent for the buſineſs of extortion, in which Meſſrs. *Gray* and *Leyceſter* ſeem vexed to find him detected, for whether it be the man or his crimes they mean to defend, is hard to diſtinguiſh. To aſſert from the caſe of *Ramnaut*, that I am attempting to

* Upon the ſubject of our laſt note, in his lordſhip's own caſe, he further declares, "As "to my reſorting to the Courts of the Emperor or the Nabob, no mandate or proceſs from "any ſuch Courts, could be inforced againſt the Company; and were theſe reaſons to pre"vail, every avenue to juſtice would be blocked up." See the pamphlet laſt quoted, page 57.

eſtabliſh

eſtabliſh a military government, and to ſubvert the laws of my country, is unjuſt and abſurd to the higheſt degree. Mr. *Leyceſter*'s minute upon the occaſion, is ſo extravagantly romantic and declamatory, that I ſhall here take little notice of it, excepting as to the falſity of its foundation, *viz.* That a debate aroſe on a queſtion, whether the Preſident had the authority to confine our inhabitants by military guards from inſtances which had really happened. I appeal to every gentleman then at the board, whether ſuch a queſtion did ariſe, or whether ſuch inſtances have happened?

To a new reader Mr. *Leyceſter*'s minute might perhaps convey a notion that I had made a general ſeizure of all the *European* inhabitants of *Calcutta*, ſet guards upon their houſes, and intended to draw the ſword againſt every aſſertor of law and liberty.——A ſingle perſon—A *Blackman*, accuſed of a heinous crime, *meditating* an eſcape from juſtice, is confined to his houſe by a few ſeapoys, according to the uſual cuſtom; and upon this circumſtance alone, Mr. *Leyceſter*, like a true leader of party, thinks it incumbent on him to ſtand forth the champion of his injured country; declaims upon the *Britiſh* conſtitution, civil rights, military force, arbitrary power, and the liberty of the ſubject.——"I demand," ſays he, "that the guards be removed from "the houſes of the inhabitants, that not only I, but the whole ſettlement may "in confidence and ſafety attend the Company's and our own concerns." In a *London* news-paper ſuch an harangue might ſerve to alarm weak minds, and draw recruits to the ſtandard of faction; but on the face of our conſultations, where *truth and facts are conſpicuous*, it muſt appear a falſhood of the moſt dangerous tendency, and calculated to anſwer the worſt of purpoſes. I therefore deſire the following queſtion may be put to this board:

Whether any of the debates which paſſed at this board, on *Monday* the 14th inſtant, relative to the conſtitution of this government, and particularly whether any expreſſions that fell from the Preſident, on that ſubject, could give the leaſt ground for ſuſpecting that a military power was going to be ſet up in oppoſition to the civil adminiſtration of this ſettlement?

(Signed) CLIVE.

The queſtion propoſed at the concluſion of his lordſhip's minute, being put accordingly to the ſeveral members,

Mr. *Gray* declares, in anſwer, yes, for that if he had not thought what paſſed at the board gave ground for ſuch ſuſpicion, he ſhould not have thought it worth notice.

Mr. *Leyceſter* replies, that the expreſſions which fell from the Preſident, on the occaſion, gave him room to ſuſpect, that he was intending to ſet up a military power very inconſiſtent with our civil juriſdiction.

Mr. *Verelſt* thinks there was no reaſon for ſuch opinion.

The General thinks the ſame, and that the entertaining ſuch was highly injurious to his lordſhip.

Mr. *Sumner*, not having been preſent when the debate occurred, can give no reply to this queſtion. And

Thoſe anſwers of the other members having been therefore taken,

The

The General desires the same question may be repeated on his behalf, to them and his lordship.

The other members reply severally in the same terms as before, and his lordship as follows:

That he cannot doubt it, after the declarations the General has made; and he has moreover authority to say, that he has many times heard the General express sentiments much the reverse.

Mr. *Verelst*, upon the foregoing proceedings, proposes to the board the following question, and requests their sentiments in answer:

Whether it does not appear to them, that Mr. *Leycester* was the author and propagator of the injurious report spread through the settlement, that a military power was going to be set up, in opposition to the civil administration?

Mr. *Gray* refers to Mr. *Leycester*'s avowal, but cannot say whether he was the first propagator.

Mr. *Verelst* thinks he was so, from his own confession.

The General does the same.

Mr. *Sumner* requests the answers of the other members to the following question, before he can reply to the one proposed by Mr. *Verelst*:

Whether none of them mentioned what passed at the board after the Council, to others besides the members of the board?

Mr. *Gray* replies, that he did; and that the expressions which he recollected to have passed, when compared with circumstances and facts which had at that time happened, appeared to him of such a nature, that he thought himself under a necessity of asking the opinion of others what stress, or weight should be laid upon them. At the same time, if by the injurious reports mentioned in Mr. *Verelst*'s questions, are meant aggravations beyond what is set forth in Mr. *Leycester*'s minute, on the subject of the debate, and what Mr. *Gray* has himself declared upon oath, he denies ever having propagated such.

The General and Lord *Clive* declare, that they never mentioned the circumstance, except when they were obliged to it, in justification of themselves, upon the reports being communicated to them.

Mr. *Sumner* now observes, in reply to Mr. *Verelst*'s question, that upon Mr. *Gray*'s declaration it appears to him, the circumstances have been mentioned by him, as well as by Mr. *Leycester*.

Lord *Clive* thinks Mr. *Leycester* was the author and propagator of the report in question.

Mr. *Leycester*, upon the declarations and opinions given by his lordship, desires to ask him,

Whether he does not recollect mentioning in company, proceedings and resolutions of the Select Committee, that have not yet been made known to the board?

His lordship denying his having done so,

Mr. *Leycester* declares, that he has himself heard him make mention of them, and is ready to attest the same upon oath.

And

And Lord *Clive* minutes, in reply to this declaration,

That to the beſt of his recollection, he never did make mention of the proceedings of the Committee, as Mr. *Leyceſter* aſſerts; but that it is very poſſible he has, as he may not always have been ſo much upon his guard, but that at times, expreſſions may have ſlipt from him, to give an inſight into them.

His lordſhip now deſires Mr. Leyceſter *may withdraw, having ſomething to propoſe to the board concerning him, at which it is not proper he ſhould be preſent.*

And Mr. *Leyceſter* retires accordingly, minuting,

That he ſhall give in a reply to theſe proceedings, at the next meeting of the board.

Mr. *Leyceſter* being withdrawn, his lordſhip lays before the board the following *reſolution* for his ſuſpenſion:

Mr. *Leyceſter*, a member of this board, having induſtriouſly propagated a report, that a military power was going to be ſet up, in oppoſition to the civil adminiſtration of this ſettlement;

Reſolved, That the ſaid report is a moſt groſs and ſcandalous falſhood, tending to excite diſcontent, to promote faction, to alarm the minds of the inhabitants, and to introduce confuſion in the Company's affairs; that Mr. *Leyceſter*, in propagating the ſaid report, is guilty of unfaithfulneſs to the duty of the ſervice, and a breach of that truſt and confidence repoſed in him by his employers; who expect from all their ſervants a ſtrict attention to the happineſs, unanimity, and harmony of the ſettlement; that he is therefore unworthy of any ſtation in the Company's ſervice, and that he is accordingly ſuſpended, until the pleaſure of the Court of Directors be known.

Mr. *Gray* enters his diſſent to the reſolution, as follows:

I diſſent from the reſolution of the Preſident, as Mr. *Leyceſter* has not had an opportunity to anſwer what has this day paſſed, which before he withdrew he intimated to the Secretary, it was his intention to do: and further, Lord *Clive*, as well as General *Carnac*, having declared themſelves injured by that gentleman's conduct, I conſider them as parties in the debate, and think they cannot with propriety have a vote. The amount of my reaſons for this diſſent therefore is, that Mr. *Leyceſter* is about to be judged by his accuſers, and judged unheard; I ſhall deliver in my ſentiments more at large hereafter.

Mr. *Verelſt* and the General approve of the reſolution in the following minutes.

MR. VERELST'S.

Mr. *Verelſt* is ſorry he his obliged to concur in the reſolution propoſed by his lordſhip, but Mr. *Leyceſter*'s conduct, in ſo induſtriouſly propagating an aſſertion falſe in itſelf, and injurious to this government, is ſuch, that he thinks he ſhould be deficient in his duty to his employers, was he not to join in

in ſhewing a neceſſary reſentment on the occaſion, and therefore he aſſents to the reſolution propoſed.

The GENERAL's.

The minute given in by Mr. *Leyceſter*, and his having induſtriouſly propagated the ſame through the ſettlement, to inflame the minds of the inhabitants, is ſuch an indignity upon the government, that the General ſhould think himſelf highly deficient in the duty he owes thereunto, did he not concur in the reſolution offered by his lordſhip.

Mr. *Sumner* minutes his opinion on the occaſion as follows:

After re-peruſing the ſeveral declarations given in upon oath, on the ſubject of the debate, he thinks Mr. *Leyceſter* has been unneceſſarily alarmed, and that he has been guilty of imprudence, in making the ſame public; but he does not think he merits ſo ſevere a cenſure as ſuſpenſion from the ſervice.

The majority of the board being of opinion, that Mr. *Leyceſter* ſhould be ſuſpended from the Company's ſervice on the occaſion, he is ſuſpended accordingly: And the Secretary is directed to adviſe him of the ſame, tranſmitting, for his information, a copy of the reſolution; and acquainting him further, that he has the board's orders to communicate to him ſuch part of the proceedings as he may require.

His lordſhip propoſes the following further reſolution, reſpecting Mr. *Leyceſter*'s minute of the 14th, on the ſubject of the debate in queſtion:

RESOLVED, That the minute delivered in by Mr. *Leyceſter*, on the 18th inſtant, is a moſt groſs and injurious reflection upon the honour and juſtice of our conſultations; and all the aſſertions and inſinuations therein contained, relating to the eſtabliſhment of military power, in ſubverſion of our laws and conſtitution, are *falſe*, *ſcandalous*, *and malicious*, and that a paragraph, expreſſing our abhorrence and deteſtation of the ſame, be inſerted in our next general letter to the Court of Directors.

Mr. *Gray* diſſents from the paragraph propoſed to be inſerted in the general letter, for the ſame reaſons he gave for diſſenting from the firſt reſolution: and further, becauſe he thinks it contains improper ſentiments and unjuſt reflections on Mr. *Leyceſter*.

Mr. *Verelſt* and the General approve thereof: And Mr. *Sumner* refers to his opinion given upon the firſt reſolution, as containing his ſentiments, as well with reſpect to Mr. *Leyceſter*'s minute as his conduct.

The Secretary is, therefore, directed to attend to the ſentiments of the majority upon Mr. *Leyceſter*'s minute, when the draft of the next general letter is prepared.

The ſub-accomptant ſends in a letter, repreſenting that, as the *Grenville*'s diſpatch for *Europe* will ſoon take place, it would be now proper to adverti ſe for bills of exchange by her, if any are intended to be granted.

Agreed,

Agreed, for the preſent, not to grant any bills by the firſt ſhip, and that the ſub-accomptant be adviſed thereof.

Mr. *Gray* enters the following diſſent to this reſolution.

Mr. *Gray* thinks the refuſal of bills of exchange by the firſt ſhip will force thoſe who are deſirous of making remittances to *Europe* to have recourſe to the channel of the *French* and *Dutch*, from whence thoſe ſettlements will meet with large ſupplies of money, and be enabled to increaſe their inveſtments, to the detriment of the Honourable Company.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Preſident and Council, on the 4th November 1765.

The current buſineſs being here concluded, Mr. *Gray* lays before the board the following defence to ſuch part of his lordſhip's charges, and the proceedings thereon, as have already appeared.

THE DEFENCE.

It was not my intention to have anſwered to any of the charges brought againſt me until the whole ſhould have been finiſhed; but as there is a pauſe at preſent in the inquiries, I ſhall now reply to what has been hitherto brought forth, and, for this purpoſe, I think it will be the eaſieſt and ſhorteſt way of obviating the inſinuations to my prejudice, to give a faithful account of my conduct on the occaſion, where I am now accuſed, before the board, without giving either the board or myſelf the trouble of animadverting on the informations of the perſons brought as evidence.

Firſt, Touching the ſuſpicion Lord *Clive* has pleaſed to ſet forth, concerning the preſent the Nabob gave me, after his ſucceſſion to the Subahdary, and the reaſon for it, it is well known, that my motive for going to the city was to meet General *Carnac*, on his way to the army; and the deſire of ſeeing Major *Munro*, on his return from the army, detained me there. The old Nabob, in the interim, was dangerouſly ill, when theſe two gentlemen left the city, and prepared to return to *Maldah*. But Mr. *Middleton*, then reſident at the *Durbar*, requeſted I would ſtay with him for ſome time, till the Nabob's illneſs ſhould come to a criſis; and, in compliance with his requeſt, I did ſtay. About two or three days after the General left the city, the old Nabob, apprehenſive his end approached, gave his eldeſt ſon, *Najim al Dowlah*, a *Kkelaat* to tranſact the buſineſs of the Subahdary; and circulatory letters were ſent to all the officers of the government to obey him, which is the common way of declaring the ſucceſſor. Mr. *Middleton* informed the Preſidency of this event, and of the Nabob's dangerous ſtate; and he received orders to ſupport the Nabob's family. He believed, without the ſmalleſt doubt, it was the intention of the board, that *Najim al Dowlah*, the Nabob's eldeſt ſon, and his declared heir, ſhould ſucceed, in

caſe of the Nabob's death; and he aſked my opinion, which concurred with his. No inſtructions, advices, or hints ever gave him reaſon to ſuſpect the contrary; and had other intentions been formed, they ſhould have been communicated to him, ſince the Nabob's danger was well known. Accordingly, when the old Nabob expired, and the officers of the government were about to proclaim the young Nabob, and deſired Mr. *Middleton* to attend the ceremony, that gentleman thought he could not properly give his refuſal, which might be attended with very bad conſequences. Mr. *Middleton* deſired me, and other gentlemen, to accompany him; and, in compliance with his requeſt, we went along with him to the *Kella*. I muſt obſerve here, that being but a private viſitor with Mr. *Middleton*, and only giving my opinion when aſked, no part of the merit due to Mr. *Middleton* in this tranſaction, could come to my ſhare; and that gentleman had the pleaſure of finding his conduct approved of by the board, which, I think, ſhould have prevented any ſuſpicion, or inquiry on this occaſion. Some days after the young Nabob's appearance in public, I was offered a preſent, as a conſideration for way-expences from *Maldah*, which I at firſt declined, from an apprehenſion my acceptance might afford malice a pretext againſt me. But it was alledged, my refuſal would make the Nabob uneaſy, who would think I was his enemy; and that it would ſeem as if I was affronted at the ſmallneſs of the offer. And I declare, it was not till after this remonſtrance, that I conſented to receive it. I deſire Captain *Stables* may be called upon to atteſt what he knows of this affair.

As to the circumſtances of *Meer Aſhruff*, *Bolakydaſs* who had demands upon him, requeſted I would write to the *Meer*, and recommend his ſettling accounts with him. *Meer Aſhruff* had begun a correſpondence with me, and, as a friend to both parties, I did adviſe the *Meer* to pay *Bolakydaſs* what he owed; and ſince he was ſo near *Calcutta* as *Hoogly*, I did alſo adviſe his coming down, that matters might be the more eaſily adjuſted between them. I deliver in the copies of two letters, all I ever ſent to *Meer Aſhruff*, which I deſire may be tranſlated, and annexed to this minute. I declare I never meant to order, but to adviſe him; and I never ſent people to bring him by force, nor did I know of any force having been uſed.

The affair of *Bolakydaſs* I ſhall relate from the beginning. Very ſoon after my arrival in *Calcutta*, *Ramnaut* informed me, that *Bolakydaſs* had ſent down one *Shamlall* in order to ſolicit for leave for him to return to *Bengal*. He had been a banker, or *ſhroff* to *Meer Coſſim*, and was carried up by him in his retreat; and after ſuffering of many hardſhips, both from *Meer Coſſim* and *Sujah al Dowlah*, he was at laſt abſconding, and afraid to come down leſt he ſhould be ſeized and plundered by the officers of the Nabob's government.

I thought his caſe particularly hard, whilſt ſeveral men who had been in *Meer Coſſim*'s actual ſervice, and in arms againſt us, found forgiveneſs and protection, that he, a merchant, and of courſe no member of the government, nor ſervant of the Nabob's, ſhould be deprived of the benefit of peace and our protection. After *Shamlall* had ſet forth *Bolakydaſs*'s deplorable ſtate in affecting terms, I informed Mr. *Spencer*, then Governor, of what I had

had heard; and he concurring with me in opinion, that it would be beneficial to the country, to give *Bolakydaſs*, and every other merchant who might be in the ſame circumſtances, encouragement to reſettle in theſe provinces, from a motive of real humanity, as well as from a political view, that gentleman granted him a perwânah to return. I ſent the perwânah, and a letter of my own, under care of *Ramnaut*, together with *Shamlall*, who only knew the place of his retreat before. It occured to me, that *Bolakydaſs* had wrote, but now I recollect, that having aſked if *Shamlall* had brought any letter from *Bolakydaſs*, I was informed *Bolakydaſs* was afraid to write, leſt his letter, falling into the hands of improper people, might diſcover his retreat and ruin him; and therefore he preferred the verbal application of his gomaſtah. Be that as it will, *Ramnaut* and *Shamlall* went up, and what occurred amongſt them after their departure I know nothing of; but at laſt they returned with *Bolakydaſs*, who, on his arrival, expreſſed very great ſatisfaction in the protection and favour he had received, and ſome time after he offered me a preſent, which I had no intention of profiting by, to the truth of which I can bring undeniable evidence.

Bolakydaſs had obtained a perwânah from Lord *Clive*, of which I preſent a copy, and deſire it may be tranſlated and annexed. This, as well as Mr. *Spencer*'s perwânah, was ſufficient ſanction for him to remain here in ſecurity. He accordingly lived in the place openly, and made an application to the board for payment of a ſum of * money borrowed from him at *Dacca*; and no objections were ever ſtarted to his reſiding in *Calcutta*, until the return of Lord *Clive*, who, notwithſtanding the circumſtance of his own perwânah, and *Bolakydaſs*'s application to the board, ſent his *Chubdar* with orders to turn him out of our ſettlement and protection. *Bolakydaſs*, in the utmoſt diſtreſs and apprehenſion of his life, ſhould he fall into the hands of *Jugguſſeat*, his mortal enemy, now ſo much in power, or of *Mahommed Reza Khawn*, a great number of whoſe ſpies were lying in wait for him, ſent to inform me of his ſituation, and begged I would ſave his life and honour. I was ſhocked at this tranſaction, and ſympathizing with the diſtreſſes of a man to whom I had promiſed aſſiſtance, I thought it my duty to give him ſhelter in one of the pergunnahs under my charge. He remained in this retreat, till after I had deſired Lord *Clive* to lay before the board the informations he had received touching my conduct; when his lordſhip, in diligent ſearch for charges againſt me, having diſcovered *Bolakydaſs*'s retreat, ſent for him to town, received him into favour, and demanded a relation from him of all that had paſſed between him and me.

I remember ſomething of *Ramnaut*, or *Shamlall*'s mentioning the great obligation *Bolakydaſs* would lay under to me, if I could aſſiſt him; and that he would not fail to acknowledge it by a conſiderable preſent; to which I anſwered, it is very well, I ſhall be glad effectually to aſſiſt *Bolakydaſs*, and

* No leſs than 230,000 rupees, which he lent the Company in their diſtreſs in 1763. Not being able to procure juſtice in *Bengal*, *Bolakydaſs* was reduced to the neceſſity of ſending an agent to *England*, to ſolicit payment from the Directors, who at laſt gave orders to their Preſident and Council to pay off his demand. See letter H. numbers III. to VII. But *Bolakydaſs* did not touch the whole amount.

then it will be time enough to think of a preſent, or words to that import. But by this I never intended to imply, or authorize a bargain for myſelf; and my ſubſequent refuſal of an offer, actually tendered me by *Bolakydaſs* himſelf, ſhould put the matter beyond a doubt.

I muſt take this occaſion to repreſent to the board, that I have been informed Lord *Clive* makes a practice of ſending for people produced as evidence againſt me; and that he, or his * *Munſhy*, holds private converſations with them touching their informations. When it is publicly known, or believed, that Lord *Clive* bears a profeſſed reſentment againſt me, and after the declarations he has made before this board, I cannot think it conſiſtent with candour, or with juſtice, that his lordſhip, in the power and authority he is veſted with, ſhould carry on ſuch ſecret correſpondence. The ſole buſineſs of theſe evidences before Lord *Clive*, is to accuſe; and with the hopes of gaining his lordſhip's favour and intereſt, they may either tell him downright falſhoods, or aggravate circumſtances beyond the bounds of truth, which are from their own mouths committed to paper, and nominated a petition. This petition is brought to the board, and, when they are upon oath, read to them, before they deliver any verbal relation. The fear of his lordſhip's reſentment will certainly prevent them from deviating from their firſt declaration, whether true or falſe.

Such avowed encouragement doth Lord *Clive* give to informers, that he has publicly, and in a moſt extraordinary manner, eſpouſed the cauſe of one *Benodram Chattorgee*, a notorious informer, and an infamous villain. This man had for ſome years been deprived of his Caſt, and excluded from the ſociety of thoſe of his own religion. Lord *Clive*, finding him, I ſuppoſe, uſeful in his inquiries, has been uſing all his power and influence over the *Gentoo* inhabitants to procure his re-admiſſion into his forfeited Caſt; a meaſure which thoſe who dare ſpeak, declare incompatible with their tenets. How ſhocking muſt it appear then for a ſubject of *Britain*, whoſe happy inhabitants claim a right to a general toleration in religious matters, thus to exerciſe an authority over the conſciences of a ſect and nation, with whom, as merchants, we are come to reſide, or, as rulers, we are bound to protect. The ſtrong prepoſſeſſion and attachment which all mankind have to their religious opinions and cuſtoms, muſt render Lord *Clive*'s interpoſition, on this occaſion, as diſguſting as I believe it is unparallelled in any of the Company's governments. An attempt of ſo extraordinary a nature, from a man of Lord *Clive*'s great influence and authority in this country, muſt cauſe the *Engliſh* government and name to be held in the utmoſt abhorrence and deteſtation by all the *Gentoo* tribes in *Hindoſtan*. And when they conſider the character of the perſon in whoſe favour this unprecedented ſtretch of authority has been exerciſed, it muſt add contempt to hatred. It is well known, that the *Gentoo* merchants, and inhabitants have, to many of the gentlemen of the ſettlement, lamented their unfortunate ſituation in this point. That they have not complained to Lord *Clive* upon a matter which he ſeems to have ſo much at heart, is not to be wondered at, when we recollect, that

* *Nobekiſſen.*

though

though *Bolakydaſs* declared on oath, that he conſidered his life in danger from Lord *Clive*'s expulſion of him from *Calcutta*; he alſo declared, he did not dare to utter ſuch apprehenſions to Lord *Clive*, as being out of favour.

It is ſaid, Lord *Clive* has made a declaration, which, to the terror of the inhabitants, has been ſpread through the town, that he will turn out thoſe merchants, or banyans, who refuſe in this particular to conform to his inclination. I hope my mention of this will be ſufficient to appriſe the board of the evil tendency of ſuch an arbitrary proceeding, and to point out the odium it will naturally draw upon our government. I muſt make one further remark, that this *Benodram Chattorgee*, in whoſe favour, and for whoſe benefit Lord *Clive* is uſurping ſuch a power over mens conſciences, was, a few months ago, whipt in the town, by an order of the Preſident and Council, for notorious frauds, committed by him in the new works, and embezelments, in which he was detected, of the Company's property. A moſt meritorious object, and highly deſerving of the favour of government.

I have endeavoured, by the plain narrative with which this minute commences, to ſet in a proper light the tranſaction relative to the preſent I received from the Nabob. By Lord *Clive* it has been ſtated as a very heinous accuſation, and the preſent I received repreſented as the price of——I know not what ſervices rendered to the Nabob. It is therefore impoſſible for me to reply further to a charge, for which I know of no foundation. But I cannot omit this opportunity of taking notice of the query put by General *Carnac*, which, circumſtances conſidered, I had little reaſon to expect from that gentleman. Beſides having concurred in his lordſhip's ſuſpicion, he deſires to be informed, whether I knew of the covenants at that time, implying, I ſuppoſe, if I ſhould anſwer in the affirmative, that I was guilty of a breach of them, in receiving this money. I confeſs I had heard, by report, of ſuch covenants, but had not received any certain advice of them, either through a public channel, or by any private correſpondence of my own.

In return for the kind purpoſe of General *Carnac*'s query, I have to aſk him, whether, or not, he has received, as is reported, a ſum of money from *Bulwantſing*, the *Rajah* of *Banaras?* And if he did, whether he was at that time acquainted, either by report or correſpondence, of the arrival of the covenants? And whether this did not happen at, or about the time he ſettled with the *Rajah*, for the revenues of his country, payable to the Company? The degree of intimacy and friendſhip which has for a long time ſubſiſted between General *Carnac* and me, would have called on me at preſent to have paſſed over in ſilence the reports I have heard of this tranſaction, had he not ſeemed ſo heartily to concur in the injurious and unjuſt attacks made upon my character. But as I believe it will be allowed by all, that the acquieſcence of a friend, upon ſuch an occaſion, is leſs to be borne than the open attacks of an avowed enemy, the notice I have been obliged to take of his conduct, will, I hope, ſtand ſufficiently juſtified in the opinion of all unbiaſſed perſons.

(Signed) GEORGE GRAY.

TRANS-

Translations of the Papers referred to in the foregoing Defence.

Mr. Gray's *firſt Letter to* Meer Aſhruff.

I am informed, by *Seet Bolakydaſs*, that he lent you a ſmall ſum of money at a time when you were in want; that, moreover, during the troubles of *Meer Mahommed Coſſim*, he lodged a *budgerow* and ſome other goods in your hands, and that you have not yet repaid the money, or given back the *budgerow* and goods. As the payment of debts is indiſpenſably neceſſary, and is the means of credit and a good name, eſpecially debts which have been contracted in time of want, I therefore write to you, that you ſhould pay back to *Bolakydaſs* all the money you borrowed of him, together with the *budgerow* and goods which he lodged with you; this will procure you credit and a good name. It is proper that you ſhould not make any unbecoming excuſe.

Mr. Gray's *ſecond Letter to* Meer Aſhruff.

I have had the pleaſure to receive your letter, and underſtand the contents. As unfair dealing among merchants is attended with ill conſequences, and is a means of diſcredit, ſince you are come for one night to ſee Mr. *Law*, if you will come hither alſo for one day, that I may be acquainted with all circumſtances by you, and ſee *Bolakydaſs* face to face, it will be very adviſable. I therefore write to you, that you ſhould by no means be under any manner of uneaſineſs, but come hither with all confidence, knowing that nothing will be done here contrary to juſtice.

Lord Clive's *Perwánah to* Bolakydaſs.

I have received your *arzee*, and underſtand the contents of it. Set your mind perfectly at eaſe, carry on you buſineſs without fear, and look upon me to be well diſpoſed towards you.

Mr. Gray's *Minute, touching the Conduct of Lord* Clive, *General* Carnac, *and Mr.* Vereſt, *towards himſelf and Mr.* Leyceſter.

Lord *Clive*'s conduct towards ſome members of this board has been ſo extraordinary of late, that every one muſt be alarmed at the proſpect of ill conſequences that ſeem to threaten thoſe who entertain any opinion different from his, or who dare to avow ſuch ſentiments. The bad effects ſuch a tenor of conduct muſt have upon a board where opinions ought to be free, and unguided by impreſſions of awe, or the allurement of favour and partiality, is obvious. Independence of ſentiment once deſtroyed, the uſe of a board remains no longer; and that body which ought to conſult together, becomes nothing more than the mere approvers and abettors of whatever an arbitrary Preſident may be pleaſed to dictate to them.

To

To omit other inſtances, Mr. *Leyceſter* and myſelf have felt the principal force of his lordſhip's implacable reſentment, and the ſituation we are now in, the one ſuſpended, and the other perſecuted, ſerves amply to confirm the advice which a private correſpondent gave me two months ago, when his lordſhip yet remained up the country. I was then informed, Lord *Clive* was highly exaſperated againſt the members of the board, who had voted the appointment of new members to the Council, in oppoſition to the intention of the Select Committee; and that Mr. *Leyceſter*, Mr. *Burdett*, and myſelf, were the victims devoted to deſtruction; and I have been told, that Lord *Clive* has declared, he would never forgive the conduct of the board towards him, touching his diſpute with Mr. *Burdett*.

The proceedings of the laſt Council manifeſt his reſentment againſt Mr. *Leyceſter*. There he evidently anticipated the determinations of the board, in the extraordinary reſolution he propoſed; which was brought *ready wrote and prepared to Council*, as if he meant to dictate rather than propoſe. He did not, on that occaſion, as is uſual, deſire the opinion of the board on Mr. *Leyceſter*'s conduct, from whence a general reſolution ſhould be formed; but abſolutely preſcribed, in direct terms, Mr. *Leyceſter*'s ſuſpenſion, and enforced it to the board by a declaration that, if it was not carried, he would ſit no longer himſelf there, or words to that effect. I mention this, in ſupport of my belief, that a combination had been formed againſt Mr. *Leyceſter*, and that his lordſhip at that time, convinced he had a majority to join him, took advantage of it to gratify his reſentment againſt that gentleman.

Lord *Clive* indeed, from his manner of proceeding, gives ſufficient proof of his intention. In all well-regulated aſſemblies the voice of the youngeſt member is firſt taken, that it may be pronounced free from any reſtraint or bias, which it might be ſuppoſed to gather from the opinion of his ſuperiors in ſtation and experience. But in this caſe the Preſident has not only given his judgment firſt, but ſupported it by a declaration of ſuch a nature as is plainly calculated to lead the ſentiments of the other members. Beſides this circumſtance, Lord *Clive* and General *Carnac* had more than once declared themſelves injured by Mr. *Leyceſter*'s conduct; they could not therefore but appear as parties concerned, and had no right to ſit as judges on their own cauſe, or to condemn, becauſe they had the power in their own hands.

They have determined, that Mr. *Leyceſter* is the author and propagator of a falſe and injurious report, and this report they have ſet forth in their own exaggerated terms, as the phraſe which General *Carnac* makes uſe of, "*To the excluſion of all civil government*," muſt plainly evince. Mr. *Leyceſter* has declared to the board what were his ideas of Lord *Clive* and General *Carnac*'s expreſſions, and doubtleſs what he mentioned to others out of Council, concurred with what he has mentioned here. I have atteſted to what I recollect of the converſation on that occaſion, and I ſolemnly declare that the ſame meaning ſtruck me. What I heard in Council with ſurprize, I have informed the board I mentioned out of it; and although I am convinced Mr. *Leyceſter* can ſufficiently account for his own conduct, yet from what I know of that gentleman, I muſt declare, I believe him incapable of raiſing, or propagating any report, with a malicious view; or that in this particular he

extended

extended the purport of the ſpeeches beyond his conception of their drift and purpoſe. In confirmation of this, as well as in ſupport of my own opinion, it is obſervable, that the votes were equally divided upon the following queſtion, put by Lord *Clive*, whether any of the debates which paſt at this board, on *Monday* the 14th *October*, relative to the conſtitution of this government, and particularly, whether any expreſſions that fell from the Preſident on that ſubject, could give the leaſt ground for ſuſpecting that a military power was going to be ſet up in oppoſition to the civil adminiſtration of this ſettlement? And when the ſame queſtion was put by General *Carnac*, on his own behalf, there was in like manner an equal diviſion of voices.

It was ſurely the buſineſs of Lord *Clive* and General *Carnac* to have diſproved the ſentiments Mr. *Leyceſter* and myſelf had formed of their intentions as ſoon as poſſible; and that opportunity was given them three days after the debate, when Mr. *Leyceſter* gave in his minute. Whatever odium, therefore, might have been due to thoſe who uttered ſentiments which beſpoke a deſire of infringing civil liberty, it would have been removed from Lord *Clive* and General *Carnac* by ſo early an explanation of their real intentions, if ſupported by a conformity of conduct. But although General *Carnac* then entered a minute, expreſſing himſelf to have been injured by Mr. *Leyceſter*, yet the main inquiry was deferred till ten days after and all the additions which Mr. *Leyceſter*'s narration to the board, received in the mean time, were laid to his charge. Whatever light Lord *Clive*, General *Carnac*, and Mr. *Verelſt* have thrown upon the declarations of Lord *Clive* and General *Carnac*, by their palliations or embelliſhments, *it is certain his lordſhip declared this to be a military as well as civil government*; *that the General ſupported this declaration, and added, that he would not ſcruple to ſeize Mr.* Leyceſter *if he thought he deſerved it*.

Such declarations, let haſtily drop from unguarded warmth, might have been overlooked; but when corroborated by real facts, ſuch as the ſeizure by military guards, and detention of *Mooteram*, a ſervant of Mr. *Johnſtone*'s; the ſeizure by military guards, and detention of *Ramnaut*, a ſervant of mine; his lordſhip's public avowal of his intention to uſe military force over Mr. *Peacock*, under plea of executing the act of parliament for ſending home unlicenſed perſons; there was but too much reaſon to apprehend his lordſhip was intending to aſſume a military authority over the inhabitants, in virtue of which, as in the inſtances already mentioned, he might ſeize the ſervant of any perſon, that was become obnoxious to him. As to the General's declaration, whatever were his real ſentiments, the expreſſion itſelf was in the higheſt degree indecent; and if the Preſident had in a proper manner aſſerted the dignity of the board, General *Carnac*, for the bare ſuppoſition that a member of it, and a chief magiſtrate, could be guilty of the commiſſion of an atrocious crime, would have been immediately called upon to make proper conceſſions, and by a public diſavowal of the ſentiments entertained by his expreſſions, might have, on that very day, brought on an explanation.

To put the moſt favourable conſtruction on the expreſſions made uſe of by Lord *Clive* and General *Carnac*, they were guilty of a great indiſcretion; nor is it extraordinary that Mr. *Leyceſter* ſhould have miſapprehended their meaning.

meaning. Mr. *Leyceſter* could, at worſt, have only committed a miſtake, and therefore could never merit that degree of ſeverity which has been exerciſed towards him, in his haſty ſuſpenſion. Had he been guilty of the greateſt crime towards the Company, what heavier judgment could have been denounced againſt him? How abſurd and unjuſt is it, therefore, thus indiſcriminately to paſs the greateſt condemnation, on what none but the parties concerned would even deem an offence?

The ſuſpenſion of a ſervant of ſuch rank as a member of the board ought to be a matter of the utmoſt tenderneſs and care; and ſuch an act of power ſhould never be exerted, but in caſes where the intereſts of the Company are immediately concerned, or may ſuffer, by means of the incapacity or want of integrity of the particular perſon. The preſent occaſion is no ways relative to the Company's immediate buſineſs. I aver, if any injury has been done, it was only to Lord *Clive* and General *Carnac*, as they themſelves have taken occaſion to declare and complain; and they have ſeized the opportunity in their hands of employing public reſentment for a particular diſpute with themſelves. As to Mr. *Leyceſter*'s abilities, integrity, and attention to the Company's intereſt, they are ſufficiently diſtinguiſhed, to convince the Company what a valuable ſervant they have loſt. Whatever ſentiments therefore may prevail here, I can never think our honourable maſters will approve that their ſervants of ſtation and merit ſhould wantonly be ſacrificed to a Governor's ambitious deſire of ruling without controul.

The arbitrary ſuſpenſion was carried by a majority of three againſt two. Of the three, Lord *Clive* and General *Carnac*, as I have already mentioned, were parties concerned, and revenging their own cauſe. The third member, Mr. *Verelſt*, by his concurrence, ſhewed ſuch a notorious inſtance of ſubſerviency to party, and to the implicit pleaſure of Lord *Clive*, that I hope it will not eſcape the notice of our employers. The haſty advantage they took of this occaſional majority, to execute their intention upon Mr. *Leyceſter*, ſhews they did not think they had ſufficient ground for ſuch a violent procedure, had there been a fair and impartial board. But a candid conſideration of the affair was not what they wanted, for it appears evident, that Mr. *Leyceſter*'s ſuſpenſion, with or without cauſe, was premeditated. In proof of which, I need only mention, that Mr. *Leyceſter* frequently, in the courſe of the debate, offered to explain different circumſtances by a minute which he had prepared and preſented, but the reading of this minute was poſtponed by the Preſident, and Mr. *Leyceſter* himſelf repeatedly and peremptorily ordered to withdraw unheard.

As to Lord *Clive*'s conduct towards myſelf, the inſtances of his prejudice, rancour, and reſentment againſt me are notorious, and too numerous to be here related; and the proof before our eyes, in Mr. *Leyceſter*'s ſuſpenſion, how far he can be carried by the ſpirit of perſecution, leaves it impoſſible to doubt the juſtneſs of Mr. *Burdett*'s obſervation, that his lordſhip is determined to oblige every one to quit the ſervice who dares to differ from him in opinion. I am now the only member remaining at the board who joined Mr. *Burdett* on the occaſion of his diſpute with Lord *Clive*, and have had ſufficient proof that I muſt expect the ſame fate with Mr. *Leyceſter*, by the

ſame means. But heartily diſguſted with being witneſs to meaſures ſo inconſiſtent with juſtice, honour, and generoſity, as well as the intereſts of our honourable employers, and at the ſame time unwilling to remain longer the dupe of an uſurped and arbitrary power, I now take my leave of the board, where I deſire they will conſider my ſeat as vacated; for I can ſubmit to attend no longer at a meeting, where I have to expect nothing but the moſt virulent and injurious attacks upon my own character, or that of my friends.

However, to obviate any malevolent reflections that may be thrown upon my reſignation at this time, I am to requeſt the inquiries relative to my conduct may be continued, for I have no deſire to evade them. I wiſh nothing more than an opportunity, as well to clear up my own character, as to manifeſt to the world, the practices which have been made uſe of to injure me. I muſt, on this occaſion, inform my honourable employers, that I am compelled to this ſudden abdication of their ſervice, and to the relinquiſhment of all the proſpects of benefiting my fortune, which I hoped to have reaped from the continuance of their favour, by the Preſident's cruel perſecution of myſelf, and ill treatment of my friends.

I reſerve to myſelf the right of replying to the minutes Lord *Clive* delivered in laſt Council, as ſoon as I have leiſure to conſider them, and of tranſmitting to the honourable Court of Directors a relation of the wrongs and injuries I have received. And now, my lord and gentlemen, I beg leave to offer to my employers the warmeſt thanks of a heart truly ſenſible of the manifold favours and indulgencies they have been pleaſed to beſtow upon me, together with the moſt hearty wiſhes for the continuance of their proſperity. Permit me, at the ſame time, ſincerely to hope, that your endeavours will always be attended with ſucceſs in the management of their affairs.

(Signed) GEORGE GRAY.

From Conſultation the 2*d* December 1765.

Mr. *Leyceſter* ſends in a letter, containing a repreſentation reſpecting the ſeizure of a gomaſtah in his employ, at *Dinagepoor*, by Lord *Clive*.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

I AM ſorry to be under the neceſſity of troubling you with a complaint, but a conſiderable part of my fortune being in danger, I apply to you, gentlemen, for redreſs, as I would rather obtain juſtice from your board than by an application to any other. The incloſed copy of the letter I wrote Lord *Clive* laſt *Monday*, with his anſwer, will explain my grievance. My gomaſtah has been ſeized, my property, which he had in charge, has been left a prey to thoſe who choſe to poſſeſs themſelves of it, and without any regard to the injury done me, my gomaſtah has been many days kept in confinement in *Calcutta*; though no charge has been lodged againſt him in the *Cutcherry*, the court of juſtice where ſuch offences as are laid to his charge are uſually proſecuted.

I was

I was a good deal ſurprized to find Lord *Clive* had been preferring a ſuit, or complaint, for a ſuppoſed injury to himſelf, to *Mahommed Reza Khawn*; and that *Mahommed Reza Khawn* ſhould have ſeized an *Engliſh* gomaſtah, againſt whom I had heard of no charge. But the myſtery was ſoon cleared up by the copy of Lord *Clive*'s order on this ſubject, which the officer of the government who ſeized him ſent, in vindication of himſelf. I incloſe you a tranſlation of his lordſhip's perwânah, which, inſtead of a complaint to *Mahommed Reza Khawn*, as his lordſhip intimated in his reply to me, is a moſt peremptory order to ſeize my agent, and ſend him with the utmoſt ſpeed to *Calcutta*, without any particular charge laid againſt him. *Mahommed Reza Khawn* was only to execute Lord *Clive*'s command, and it would have been more ingenuous if his lordſhip had confeſſed that he gave ſuch an order, than throw the odium on the miniſter, *Mahommed Reza Khawn.*

Upon the firſt news of my agent's being ſeized, I ſent another man orders to collect in my effects as well as he could; who informs me, by letter, that the officer of the government has put his own guards upon the houſe, where my property was lodged, and would not allow him to take charge; that my goods lying on the water are not ſuffered to be put into my warehouſes, and that the merchants who had contracted for the delivery of goods, having heard of my agent's misfortune, have refuſed to deliver them, ſo that my buſineſs is entirely ſtopt in thoſe parts.

I too well know the aptitude of black gomaſtahs to aſſume what they have no pretenſions to, not to wiſh to ſee every extravagance ſufficiently checked; but this may ſurely be done without any ſuch injury to our properties, which never can be ſafe, if our gomaſtahs, on every complaint, are to be inſtantly ſeized.

I beg leave to remind you of the injury I muſt ſuſtain by the ſtoppage of my buſineſs, and detention of my goods at this ſeaſon, when the waters are falling; and intreat you to give ſuch directions, that I may by ſome means be put in poſſeſſion of my effects, that my gomaſtah may be releaſed, to render an account, and that I may be indemnified, from ſome quarter, for the loſſes I may have ſuſtained.

I have the honour to be,
With all due reſpect,
My Lord and Gentlemen,
Your moſt obedient ſervant,

Calcutta,
the 25th Nov. 1765. (Signed) RALPH LEYCESTER.

COPY of Mr. Leyceſter's *Letter to Lord* Clive.

My Lord, *Calcutta, the 17th November* 1765.

Ramneedy Chuckerbutty, an agent of mine at *Ragegunge*, has been ſeized, I underſtand, by an order of yours, and brought to *Calcutta*. He went up, about three months ago, with charge of my property to a very conſiderable amount, and has been thus ſeized without any notice to me, or any care of

my property, by which I am likely to ſuffer greatly in my fortune. I apply to your lordſhip, in order to be informed of whom I am to inquire for my effects, ſcattered and diſperſed through the country, by this ſeizure of my agent; and who will indemnify me for the loſſes I ſhall, in conſequence, ſuſtain? I am,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhip's moſt obedient ſervant,

(Signed) RALPH LEYCESTER.

COPY of Lord Clive's *Anſwer to the above.*

SIR, *Calcutta, the 18th November 1765.*

I HAVE received your letter of yeſterday's date. *Ramneedy Chuckerbutty* ſtopped and took away a letter directed to me, and beat the meſſenger. In conſequence of my repreſentation and complaint, *Mahommed Reza Khawn thought proper* to ſend him down to *Calcutta*. As ſoon as this affair has been inquired into, he ſhall have *my permiſſion* to proceed again up the country. At the time of my *complaining* to *Mahommed Reza Khawn*, *I did not know* that the man was a ſervant of yours; he cannot however be privileged by that, or any other ſtation, to commit violence and oppreſſion, or be exempt from puniſhment. I am, Sir,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

To RALPH LEYCESTER, Eſq; (Signed) CLIVE.

EXTRACT of a Letter from Lord Clive *to* Mahommed Reza Khawn, *tranſlated.*

Ramneedy Chuckerbutty is at *Dinagepoor*; he has been *guilty of a great many* improper and unbecoming proceedings; it is neceſſary he ſhould be called down to *Calcutta*. You will ſend to the officers there, that they ſhould ſeize and confine him, and carefully ſend him down to *Calcutta*, with the utmoſt ſpeed.

From Conſultation, the 5th December 1765.

Mr. *Leyceſter* further ſends in the following addreſs, upon the occaſion of his late ſuſpenſion.

To the Right Honourable Lord Clive, *Preſident*, &c. *Council of* Fort William.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

WHEN I left my ſeat at the board at the motion of the Preſident, on the 28th *October*, having informed the Council I ſhould reply at large to the occurrences

occurrences of the day, I was greatly amazed to find, by a letter from your Secretary, that Lord *Clive*, General *Carnac*, and Mr. *Verelſt*, having taken an advantage of their accidental majority, had ſuſpended me the ſervice, without admitting me the privilege of a hearing, and on a ſubject where Lord *Clive* and General *Carnac*, *being parties concerned, and accuſed by me*, ought certainly *not to have given a vote*. Although that hearing now can by no means anſwer the end I could then have depended to have received from it, yet to defend and juſtify myſelf to the world, I muſt beg a place in your records for what I have here to ſet forth.

Lord *Clive*, in defence of an arbitrary and oppreſſive conduct in the ſeizure and confinement of Mr. *Gray*'s ſervant by military guards, took occaſion, on the 14th of *October*, to declare this to be *a military as well as civil government*; and in virtue of the former, ſeemed, by the alluſion, to claim the right of uſing military guards in the Company's ſettlements over men not ſubject to martial law, whenever he ſhall think the crimes laid to their charge ſhall merit ſuch treatment. General *Carnac* joined in the opinion of its being a military as well as civil government, and ſupported the neceſſity of ſuch a government.

Declarations of ſuch a tendency, from a governor who holds ſo high a military commiſſion, and ſupported by another military officer at our board, would alone be ſufficient to alarm the body of the inhabitants; and when the circumſtance which drew forth this explanation of their ſentiments comes to be conſidered, they will have ſtill greater cauſe to be jealous of ſuch aſſertions.——To the inſtances Lord *Clive* had already given of his propenſity to aſſert his military power *in the ſeizure of* Mooteram *and* Buſſuntroy, *upon an occaſion that only related to Mr.* Johnſtone *and other gentlemen, Britiſh* ſubjects, and holding authority in the ſettlement, he *added a freſh example*, in the ſeizure and detention of *Ramnaut*, a ſervant of Mr. *Gray*'s, who had reſided ſome months in *Calcutta*, and muſt, by our laws, be conſidered *as an inhabitant*.

When a Governor of this ſettlement, at once ſuperſeding the benefits which the inhabitants are intitled to from the laws of *England*, holds a *man in military confinement, within the limits and under the eye of our civil courts, every man, I think, muſt be alarmed, ſince deducing arguments from facts*, each individual lives equally expoſed to the ſame violence and hardſhip.——It may be my lot next to have my banyan, or dependent, ſeized by military guards; and though the misfortune ſhould not befal me, am I to conſider myſelf indebted to the clemency of Lord *Clive*, for privileges derived from our happy conſtitution, and which we have all an equal title to enjoy? No: I would rather beg my bread under any other government, than that myſelf and ſervants ſhould be expoſed to the violence and caprice of any one man. *The full benefits of* Britiſh *laws have, by proclamation of the King's judges, at their quarterly ſeſſions, been extended to our black inhabitants, of whatever caſt and profeſſion*; and indeed, as they ſuffer the penalty of our laws, it is reaſonable they ſhould reap the advantages of their protection.——*Ramnaut*, uncondemned and unheard, has for many weeks been kept under military guards; and though a civil inhabitant, and therefore not ſubject to martial laws, he has

has ſuffered puniſhment, without the opportunity allowed him to make his defence, or without any proof of crimes or miſdemeanours committed by him; and he is ſtill held in a ſtate of confinement, that I conſider as an inſult upon our laws, and a violation of liberty. I enter not into the merits of the man, but muſt inſiſt, that if the authority exerciſed over him in *Calcutta* be once admitted, ſcarce any man can live ſecure, when *accuſations proved or not, can involve the perſon againſt whom they are levelled in immediate diſtreſs, or ruin*; eſpecially in this country, where the people are more frequently hurried away by motives of reſentment, or *hopes of gaining favour and intereſt*, to invent malicious and falſe accuſations, than perhaps in any other country in the world.——If *Ramnaut* has committed offences againſt the country government, I will venture to ſay Mr. *Gray* never wiſhed to protect him from juſtice. But nothing can vindicate the breach of our laws and privileges. Whatever may have been *Ramnaut*'s crimes, he was not noticed, or ſeized, till his maſter, Mr. *Gray*, demanded that Lord *Clive*, if he had any charges againſt him, ſhould lay them before the board. The ſeizure of his ſervant, by military guards, appeared the firſt conſequence of this call on Lord *Clive*. Let any gentleman, for a moment, put himſelf in Mr. *Gray*'s ſituation; ſuppoſe a ſervant, in whoſe integrity you confided, and to whom you intruſted the ſecrets of your affairs, taken away from you by a band of ſoldiers, and not allowed the privilege of an interview;——the man kept for many weeks under military guards, in a ſettlement protected by *Britiſh* laws, from which *Mr.* Gray, *a magiſtrate and a member of the government, is denied that relief, which the pooreſt man in his own country cannot be deprived of.* Let any gentleman, I ſay, put himſelf in this ſituation, and it muſt awake his feelings for Mr. *Gray*.

It is not my tenderneſs perſonally to *Ramnaut*, that has intereſted me in this debate. It is the injury done to the privileges of the ſubject; and that it appears to me, *Ramnaut* has been oppreſſed deſignedly to inſult his maſter Mr. *Gray*.—And an eaſy inference may be made, that if Lord *Clive* has the right to make this uſe of the Company's ſoldiers in one caſe, he may, under pretext of *diſcovering criminal practices, extend the ſame violence over any other members of the community*.

If ſuch declarations, corroborated by ſuch facts, do not give reaſonable cauſe to ſuppoſe that Lord *Clive* was meaning to aſſert a military authority inconſiſtent with our civil juriſdiction, I know not what can. *We feel the effects of his deſpotic military ſyſtem, we hear it avowed, and yet are not to believe he has any bad deſign.*

Such were my ſentiments, and three days only elapſed before, by a minute to the board, I expreſſed my apprehenſions, and gave thoſe gentlemen the earlieſt opportunity to explain themſelves.

Regardleſs of my remonſtrance, or of the alarm that muſt enſue from his ſilence, Lord *Clive* allowed my addreſs, *ſo far as regarded him*, to reſt unnoticed for ten days, though two Councils intervened; and, as if ſuperior to the acknowledgment of an error, and inattentive to what ſentiments might prevail, while my minute lay yet unanſwered, he threatened the uſe of military guards to ſend one Mr. *Peacock* to *Europe*, under plea of an act of parliament

ment to reſtrain unlicenſed perſons from coming to *India*; adding inſultingly, that he ſuppoſed another uproar would be made about military guards. Mr. *Peacock* did not, I believe, enjoy the Company's licence, but had long been allowed to trade in *Bengal*; had ſerved the Company *in a military capacity, and had been called upon juries*; all which ought to have ſaved him from ſuch threats.——And, as in the preſent inſtance, there was no reaſon to ſuppoſe a civil officer would not equally have executed the act, if it was to be put in force, the mention of military guards on ſuch an occaſion was only calculated to create a dread of his authority, or to inſult thoſe who durſt oppoſe his notions of military powers.

It was their fault then that the ſettlement was alarmed; and, to ſpeak in the moſt favourable terms, they were guilty of the higheſt indiſcretion in uttering words that, by repetition, could cauſe an alarm to the ſettlement, and in not taking immediate meaſures to remove ſuch an apprehenſion.

When the inhabitants ſaw that a military power was thus exerciſed over a man not ſubject to martial law; that Mr. *Verelſt*, a civil magiſtrate, had neglected to interpoſe with his authority for the relief of *Ramnaut*; and that my appeal to the Preſident and Council, as a bench of juſtices, could not prevail to have the guards removed, it was high time for the inhabitants to be alarmed. And Lord *Clive*'s ſilence for ſo many days, on a point that might have been anſwered in a moment, very naturally increaſed the general terror and murmur at ſuch proceedings.

Lord *Clive*, at length, perceiving there were men determined to oppoſe oppreſſion and military violence, however palliated and defended, was reduced to the neceſſity of diſavowing the ſentiments, which the common acceptation of his words did ſurely imply. But however Lord *Clive* may attempt to palliate, or whatever light he may endeavour to throw upon declarations which prudence ſhould have forbid, and which he muſt have known were not only unbecoming, but highly diſguſting and alarming to the ſettlement, yet facts will ſpeak for themſelves.——We ſee the effects of a military power, inconſiſtent with our civil juriſdiction, and the avowal of an authority for ſuch proceedings from the nature of our own government, military as well as civil, as aſſerted by Lord *Clive*, brought the caſe home to every man's apprehenſion for himſelf, and dependants, ſhould he happen to fall under Lord *Clive*'s diſpleaſure.

Had General *Carnac* waited a very few minutes when he entered his minute on the 18th, he would have found I had ſaid nothing to Mr. *Sumner*, but what I intended to ſet forth to the board; to give him, or them, as early an occaſion as poſſible, to explain or correct my ideas of what had paſſed on the ſubject of military authority. I came prepared with the minute I then entered; which I particularly mention, that it may not ſeem I was drawn to make that minute from any call of General *Carnac*'s.

The gentlemen of Council, that were preſent, ſo far avow the truth of what I aſſert, that they recollect ſuch declarations were made by Lord *Clive* and General *Carnac*.——It only remains to be determined, whether I did right in appealing to the board, or whether I laid more ſtreſs on thoſe declarations than they would admit; though I believe it will be allowed, that a degree of warmth

warmth and jealouſy is never more juſtifiable, than in a caſe where our civil liberty appears to be infringed by a military authority.——I was the more forcibly ſtruck with that idea, from the then ſituation of our government. The two military members at the head, and Mr. *Verelſt*, over whom Lord *Clive* ſeems to have the moſt abſolute influence, formed the majority of the Council. Or even did Mr. *Verelſt* dare to differ in ſentiment with Lord *Clive*, ſtill his lordſhip and General *Carnac* form a majority in the Select Committee. And as this Committee have all along conſidered their authority ſuperior to the Council, the majority of it joining in this opinion and declaration, indicated the government of *Bengal* to be in a manner military.

Mr. *Verelſt* has endeavoured to palliate, and explain away, as it were, the ſtrength of General *Carnac*'s particular addreſs to me, by the aſſertion of his having previouſly ſaid, he would always ſupport the civil authority, though in ſome caſes a military force was requiſite to ſeize atrocious criminals; and that, upon ſome debate between the General and me, he recollects the General told me in ſuch a caſe he would not ſcruple to ſeize me.

Lord *Clive*, in like manner, on the 28th, attempted to palliate both what he himſelf had ſaid touching military government, as well as General *Carnac*'s ſpeech to me, which his lordſhip has expreſſed in moſt extraordinary terms. On his lordſhip's atteſtation, I muſt make one obſervation; that on the 18th, when he was called on by General *Carnac* to relate the converſation that had paſſed, he joined in ſentiment with Mr. *Verelſt*, but declared he could not recollect the particular words previous to General *Carnac*'s declarations. Whereas in his atteſtation, delivered in ten days after, he repeats the converſation that he ſays paſſed in a very particular manner; and adds expreſſions, in the cloſe of it, which *no other gentleman recollected*.

Each relation of the converſation that paſſed differs ſo much in the expreſſion, that the declarations on oath, entered on the 28th, ſeem as if they were rather their ſentiments of what might have paſſed, than their recollection of what really did paſs; though all remember that General *Carnac* made uſe of violent expreſſions to me, and that there were circumſtances under which he would uſe a military force to ſeize me.—It was the higheſt inſult to the board, to ſuppoſe one of its members, and a magiſtrate, in a ſituation that could poſſibly warrant his uſe of military guards. I will not admit, that any military officer is a fit judge when his ſoldiers are requiſite to ſeize civil ſubjects; or that on any account whatever, General *Carnac* has the liberty to come, with a party of ſoldiers, to ſeize my perſon, unleſs called upon by a civil officer of juſtice.——For if theſe military gentlemen, from the pretext of aſſiſting the civil authority, have the power in their own hands to ſeize even a magiſtrate with military guards, I doubt our civil liberty will be found to ſtand on a very precarious baſis.—And from one of the atteſtations given in upon oath, it muſt ſeem, that General *Carnac*, as an officer, conſidered himſelf the judge, when a military force was neceſſary; ſince he declared, as may be ſeen from the atteſtation, that he would not only ſeize my ſervants, but my perſon, if *he thought* I deſerved it.

It was Lord *Clive*'s aſſerting this to be a military as well as civil government, and the General's inſiſting on the neceſſity of ſuch a government,

that

that alarmed me, and gave me reaſon to lay more ſtreſs on what the General ſaid, particularly to me: and as I declared no other part of the general diſcourſe occurred to me, when I wrote my minute, I am totally freed from any reproach of intentional miſconſtruction by that atteſtation. Nor will it amaze any one, that words of ſuch a tendency, ſpoke repeatedly with great violence, ſhould have been particularly impreſſed upon me. They in the ſame manner ſeem to have ſtruck every perſon preſent; for each gentleman recollects, that the General expreſſed himſelf in violent terms, touching the ſeizure of my perſon with military guards, although none of them correſpond in the previous converſation. Lord *Clive* and Mr. *Verelſt*, indeed, have taken great pains to palliate the indiſcretion of General *Carnac*.

It was far from my deſire to wreſt General *Carnac*'s meaning beyond what I conceived to be the drift of his expreſſion. The total excluſion of all civil power was what I never inferred; but that ſuch declarations tended to give a military power an authority inconſiſtent with our charter of juſtice, and which no *Engliſhman* could patiently ſubmit to. In ſome caſes, I admitted a military force might be requiſite; but that it could then only act under the civil power, or until a civil officer could take cognizance of the offence. Whereas the point that occaſioned Mr. *Gray*'s minute, which led to the debate, was the propriety of military guards kept over a ſervant of his for ſome weeks, within the juriſdiction of our civil courts, and AN ABSOLUTE REFUSAL TO ADMIT THE MAN TO BAIL.

This circumſtance gives a weight to what was ſaid, even more than the very expreſſions might have implied on any other occaſion. Lord *Clive* and General *Carnac* deny that Mr. *Gray*'s queſtion, touching the Governor's power of confining the civil inhabitants by military guards, led to this debate. I only refer to the queſtion itſelf, propoſed in conſultation that day, by Mr. *Gray*. I admit that the confinement of Mr. *Gray*'s ſervant brought on that queſtion; and have, in my minute of the 18th, particularly ſaid, "*from in-*"*ſtances which had really happened:*" referring to the military ſeizure and confinement of *Ramnaut* and others: however, I apprehend thoſe gentlemen can advance no arguments in defence of the military power uſed over Mr. *Gray*'s ſervant, that will not hold equally good in the caſe of any other civil ſubject. The laws are infringed; and the whole ſettlement was alike intereſted in the board's determination on the queſtion that day propoſed to them.

Aſtoniſhed and diſturbed at the extravagant aſſertions made by Lord *Clive* and General *Carnac* in Council, it is not ſurprizing, that I ſhould expreſs my uneaſineſs to my friends. Determined to make what had paſſed public by an appeal to the board, I was under no obligation to keep the circumſtance an inviolable ſecret; and had a right to mention, to my friends, aſſertions that, in my opinion, had a tendency to injure our civil liberty. It was not a private concern of the Company's, nor a reſolution of the board, entered on our conſultations, which required ſecreſy. It was an indiſcretion of thoſe two gentlemen; and had I ever received any inſtances of confidence from Lord *Clive*, or been regarded by him in the light which my ſtation intitled me to, it is probable I ſhould have expreſſed my uneaſineſs, and deſired an explanation from him privately; but in my ſituation, treated on all occaſions with the

greateſt ſlight and haughtineſs, ſuch a confidence on my ſide could never be expected; and as every individual was alike intereſted in the cauſe, I deem myſelf juſtified, and make no doubt the world will juſtify me, in having mentioned it to the few I did.

So far was I from induſtriouſly propagating reports to alarm the ſettlement, that I only recollect having mentioned my apprehenſions and ſentiments of what had paſſed to one gentleman, on whoſe judgment and diſcretion I could rely, until I found the declarations, that were made, known in town; when, I believe, I talked on the matter to four or five gentlemen of my acquaintance. It was not probable ſuch declarations could long be kept ſecret: indeed, I was told many had heard the ſame; that Lord *Clive* himſelf, on the very day after the Council had broke up, mentioned, at his own table, ſufficient to inform the town of what had paſſed; and that, ſpeaking of General *Carnac*'s warmth at Council, he ſaid, "he wiſhed a guglet of water had been poured "down the General's throat, to have cooled his heat, and have prevented "ſuch imprudent aſſertions."

It would indeed be a mortification to me, to be under the neceſſity of pointing out Lord *Clive*'s conduct, as an example to juſtify my own proceedings in any one point; but that I may not hereafter be injured by a parallel, however unjuſt it would be to me, I muſt make the following remark: Lord *Clive* has endeavoured to caſt an odium on my partial relation of what had paſſed between General *Carnac* and me, though I offered to declare upon oath, that, at the time I wrote my minute, no circumſtance occurred to my recollection, but what I had mentioned. Whereas his lordſhip, a few days before, took advantage of ſome haſty expreſſions of Mr. *Gray*'s, and though Mr. *Gray* at the time, almoſt in the very inſtant, properly explained his meaning, Lord *Clive*, ſubſequent to this explanation, ſnatched his firſt words, entered them upon record, and againſt conviction, as it muſt ſeem, aimed to throw reflections on Mr. *Gray*, who in a becoming manner expoſed his lordſhip's ungenerous attempt.

What I advanced was the reſult of the impreſſions I received from the circumſtances of the debate, and the declarations that followed: in farther confirmation of which I muſt mention, that when Lord *Clive*, on the day of this debate, having wrote a note at the board, went out of the council-room to diſpatch it, it occurred to me, that he was ordering a military guard to the council-houſe, to attend his orders. Mr. *Gray* can atteſt, when the Council broke up, I expreſſed to him ſuch my ſuggeſtions. *And to me, who had been a witneſs, in the time of Lord* Clive's *former government, of his having forced the* cutcherry *priſon with a military guard, and releaſed a man confined by the civil court*, ſuch a ſuggeſtion was far from being forced or unnatural.

Although the tenor of their declarations was injurious to our privileges, yet that our conſtitution could actually be ſubverted by Lord *Clive* and General *Carnac*, was what I never conceived, and therefore could never intimate. I knew it reſted not upon their ſupport; nor could I believe them ſo romantic as to oppoſe themſelves to laws which ſuch numbers would moſt ſurely defend. It was really a conſequence I never gave them: though it is not ſurprizing, that any words ſpoken by gentlemen in ſuch high ſtations, and holding military commiſſions,

commiſſions, which had a tendency to injure our civil liberty, ſhould ſo quickly ſpread, and cauſe alarm through the ſettlement. It was not the mention of what had paſſed in Council, but the declaration, being ſupported by arbitrary acts, which raiſed the moſt natural apprehenſion, that when the ſervant of a magiſtrate, and a member of the government, is ſeized by military guards, and, uncondemned and unheard, kept in military confinement, that every merchant and inhabitant ſtands in danger of ſimilar ill-treatment, ſhould he chance to be obnoxious to Lord *Clive*; and no man under his diſpleaſure will long reſt unaccuſed, if he makes it his buſineſs to ſeek informations againſt them.

Having anſwered in the affirmative to Lord *Clive*'s queſtion, whether I had mentioned the contents of my minute to any beſides members of the board, Mr. *Verelſt* propoſed the queſtion, whether I was not the author and propagator of the injurious report, that a military power was going to be ſet up, in oppoſition to the civil juriſdiction. Though I by no means make a practice, nor do I approve of making the occurrences of the board the ſubject of common converſation, yet it is very well known, that the tranſactions of Council have never been long kept a ſecret; nor ſince the appointment of a Committee has there appeared ſuch a neceſſity that they ſhould. The very oath of ſecrecy taken by the Committee implies, that no ſuch ſecrecy is expected from the public board. When General *Carnac* joins in cenſuring me for mentioning out of Council what had paſſed in it, he would do well to recollect with what freedom the tranſactions of the board were diſcuſſed in common companies on the debates during Mr. *Vanſittart*'s government. And if one may credit reports, Lord *Clive* very frequently makes the debates of Council the ſubject of his table converſation; when he treats the ſentiments and conduct of thoſe who differ from him with ridicule and contempt. I put a queſtion to his Lordſhip to this effect, to which he anſwered in the negative: but when I offered to atteſt, that I had heard him relate, in a common company, the reſolutions of the Select Committee, which had not to that day been made known to the board, he then admitted it was very poſſible he might have *unguardedly diſcovered the proceedings of the Committee.* I muſt take the liberty to remark on this, that at the period which I alluded to, he did not let drop unguarded expreſſions about the public buſineſs, but gave a regular relation of what *had paſſed in the Select Committee, for the information of thoſe in company:* and I am alſo aſſured, that Lord *Clive*, on occaſions leſs important than the preſent, has conſulted with ſuch, though no ſervants of the Company, as he thought could give him uſeful information, touching affairs that were before the board.

However, at any rate, as the proceedings of the Council are open to their ſervants, my minute, when once entered there, was ſure to become quite public; and all the embelliſhments the circumſtance received from frequent repetition, during their ten days ſilence, has been ungenerouſly aſcribed to the reports ſaid to be ſpread by me. It was my hope, and my expectation, that thoſe gentlemen, by the immediate diſavowal of any ill deſigns, by their caution, and future moderation, would have ſatisfied the public: but to be detected in an error was what Lord *Clive*'s ſpirit could not brook without reſent-

ment; and he was determined to gratify that by wreaking his vengeance upon me, by a ſentence of ſuſpenſion, dictated to General *Carnac* and Mr. *Verelſt*, whom he knew would ſupport the meaſure he ſhould propoſe.

The violent proceedings of the board, on the 28th of *October*, are, I believe, unparalleled. I ſeveral times moved to be heard, and to enter a minute I had prepared on the occaſion; but in this I was unſucceſsful, as the Preſident took care to poſtpone my motion, till the ſeveral minutes of himſelf and friends were recorded, and their queſtions to the board propoſed and anſwered: and then he ſtill, without hearing me, deſired me to withdraw.

It appeared, that the Preſident, in having wrote the reſolution for ſuſpending me before the board met, was at all events determined to remove me from the ſervice. I have been condemned unheard. I have been deprived of my ſtation, for daring to inſinuate, that the two military members were in argument, and Lord *Clive* by facts, aſſerting a military power, inconſiſtent with our charter of juſtice. Though, when Lord *Clive* propoſed the queſtion, whether any expreſſions that fell from him gave reaſon for ſuch an inſinuation, it appears on record, that it would have been carried in the affirmative againſt Lord *Clive*, had not General *Carnac* ſtepped in to his aſſiſtance; and ſo, in like manner, when General *Carnac* propoſed the ſame queſtions in his own behalf, Lord *Clive* gave a vote in his favour. The votes were therefore equal on this queſtion: notwithſtanding which, on my only admitting that I had mentioned, out of Council, what had paſſed in it, without inquiring the time or circumſtance of my mentioning it, they adjudged me the author and propagator of reports, which, by the junction of Lord *Clive* and General *Carnac*'s voices, are declared falſe, without any regard to the equal diviſion of voices on the queſtion ſome minutes before; without any regard to Mr. *Gray*'s declaration, that he had thought himſelf at liberty to mention, and had mentioned, out of Council, what had paſſed on the 14th, conceiving the whole ſettlement to be alike intereſted in ſuch a debate, and without any regard to the probability of every word that paſſed in Council having been overheard by the Gentlemen who were in the adjoining room. Indeed, Mr. *Gray*'s avowal alone muſt demonſtrate the injuſtice and abſurdity of pointing me out, as the ſole author and propagator of any ſuch report.

As to the reſolution introduced by Lord *Clive*, it is the moſt unprecedented, the moſt unjuſt, and the moſt injurious motion ever propoſed to a public board of gentlemen; and as I had not a hearing, the acquieſcence it met with from General *Carnac* and Mr. *Verelſt (who appeared to have brought their parts in the ſcene ready prepared)* muſt be a proof to the world, that they came predetermined to condemn, whatever arguments I had to produce: or, to ſay no more, Lord *Clive*, by an extraordinary perverſion of juſtice, ſitting as judge over his accuſer, was happy in a majority, which he knew would join him in a reſolution which all unprejudiced men muſt deteſt or ridicule, as an unparalleled inſtance of injuſtice, violence, and abſurdity.

That Lord *Clive* has been guilty of a high inſult upon our government, by uſing military guards over men not ſubject to martial law; that Lord *Clive*, by aſſerting, in ſupport of this oppreſſion, that this was a military as well as civil government; and that General *Carnac*, by joining in this opinion, and

ſupporting

ſupporting the neceſſity of ſuch a government, were cauſing alarms in the ſettlement, were uſing aſſertions that tended to deſtroy the peace, harmony, and ſecurity of the inhabitants; and that in ſo doing they were guilty of unfaithfulneſs to the Company's ſervice, and by abuſing the truſt repoſed in them, were unworthy of any rank in it: had impartial men judged, this perhaps would have been their determination; but when the accuſed, in their own cauſe, were to ſit in judgment on their accuſer, it is no wonder they have paſſed that ſentence upon me, they were probably conſcious of having deſerved themſelves.

Had an unprejudiced, diſintereſted board paſſed cenſure upon me, I ſhould have eſteemed it a great misfortune: but when I conſider myſelf removed from my ſtation by a majority of three to two, and that *two of thoſe three were ſitting in judgment on their accuſer*, I muſt confeſs that I do not in the leaſt lament the extraordinary reſolution thoſe gentlemen took againſt me. I differ ſo intirely from them in ſentiment, that I eſteem this public teſtimony of my diſapprobation of their opinion and conduct, as a declaration greatly to my honour. I am happy in being thus diſtinguiſhed, as an oppoſer of arbitrary principles and deſpotic rule: and if I thought they really intended me a favour, as I feel it a ſatisfaction to have been ſacrificed in ſuch a cauſe, I would return thoſe gentlemen my thanks for this honourable diſtinction. However, as an injury to my fortune and family is the only little pleaſure thoſe gentlemen can enjoy; ſo I will not deny it them, but freely acknowledge, their arbitrary proceedings have as greatly diſappointed my expectations, in point of fortune, as they have mortified me, by ſhortening the term of thoſe faithful ſervices I hoped to have rendered the Company.

In my preſent ſituation, I am obliged to ſubmit to your authority: but to your ſuperiours I ſhall appeal for juſtice, for the unworthy treatment I have met with; nor am I in the leaſt apprehenſive, that the malevolent ſpirit of party and perſecution, which we have been the unfortunate witneſſes of abroad, will withdraw from me that favour and protection which our honourable maſters never fail to afford their injured ſervants. And as your ſentence obliges me, notwithſtanding the prejudice it may be to my commercial affairs, to a ſudden departure, in ſearch of that juſtice and redreſs which I cannot find here, I muſt requeſt your permiſſion and orders for a paſſage on the *Grenville*. Nothing more remains for me to add, but an apology for the tedioufneſs of this detail, which, as it is ſo immediately perſonal, could not well be avoided; and with thoſe, who conſider how nearly I am intereſted in the Iſſue, I truſt it will find excuſe. The Company's intereſt I have always had at heart, and I muſt therefore take the liberty of offering my warmeſt wiſhes for their proſperity; and for the ſame motive alſo I moſt heartily wiſh ſucceſs to your Adminiſtration.

I have the honour to be, with all due reſpect,
My Lord and Gentlemen,
Your moſt obedient ſervant,
(Signed) RALPH LEYCESTER.

Calcutta,
2d *December*, 1765.

EXTRACT

EXTRACT from the Conſultation of the 29th January, 1766.

His Lordſhip alſo delivers in the following minute, in anſwer to Mr. *Leyceſter*'s of the 5th inſtant, and his joint * letter with Mr. *Gray* to the Court of Directors:

Mr. *Leyceſter*'s minute of the 5th inſtant, conſiſting of little elſe than a declamation upon military power, no better ſupported, by facts or reaſon, than that of Mr. *Glover* at a General Court, I ſhall not give myſelf the trouble of a long or particular reply. He has here and there however, in aid of his lame arguments, thrown out ſuch inſinuations as lead me to contraſt them with a few indiſputable facts, inſtead of equivocal hints; a method I would recommend to that gentleman, in his appeal to the Court of Directors, if he ſeriouſly thinks of laying before them a true ſtate of his conduct in their ſervice.

The very extraordinary aſſertion of Mr. *Leyceſter*, that he believed, when I ſtepped out of Council one day, to diſpatch a note, I was going to ſend for a military guard, in order to intimidate him, I ſhould have attributed to the worſt of cauſes, were I not well acquainted with his uncommon timidity, and the great weakneſs of his nerves. That gentleman's behaviour at *Dacca*, when he abandoned the factory, which contained a very conſiderable proportion of the Company's treaſure and merchandize, would in all probability have loſt him the ſervice, if General *Carnac* had not prevailed upon Mr. *Vanſittart* to let him ſoften the paragraph written upon that ſubject in the general letter. For farther particulars I refer the world to old Mr. *Delaporte*, who very quietly ſmoaked his pipe in the factory an hour and an half after Mr. *Leyceſter* had forſaken it; and then found leiſure to carry off all his own effects, without any moleſtation from the enemy, who proved to be no other than a rabble of *Fakeers*. Nor was his zeal for the ſervice much greater, when Captain *Grant*, with a very ſmall detachment, retook the place, without the loſs of a man; for Mr. *Leyceſter*, who had juſt run away from the factory, although he would have been a very proper perſon to have pointed out the road to the Captain, who was a ſtranger to that part of the country, choſe rather to remain on the other ſide of a large navigable river, until he was informed that the factory was again in our poſſeſſion, when he returned to reſume his former employment. I mention theſe circumſtances, not by way of expoſing his ingratitude to a friend, but to prove his unfitneſs to be employed in a poſt of conſequence, in ſuch a government as this.

I obſerve, that Mr. *Leyceſter* ſuppoſes every gentleman, whoſe opinion at any time correſponds with mine, is under my abſolute influence. To this I reply, that where principles correſpond, there will not often be a difference in opinion: and I verily believe, had my principles been of the ſame ſtamp with thoſe of Mr. *Leyceſter*, he and I ſhould not have had the leaſt contention, but ſhould have gone on ſmoothly in the adminiſtration, or, to ſpeak more expreſſively, the *diſtribution* of affairs in *India*.

* See this letter at length, *Authentic Papers* concerning *India Affairs*, printed for *Richardſon* and *Urquhart*, 1771, pages 107, &c.

General

General *Carnac* and Mr. *Verelſt*, who, being themſelves examples of integrity, have always ſtood forth the oppoſers of corruption, are by Mr. *Leyceſter* ſuppoſed to act upon no principle whatever, but to be led intirely by my will. With regard to Mr. *Verelſt*, I flatter myſelf I ſhall have an influence over that gentleman, as long as he finds I act upon diſintereſted principles, and am purſuing meaſures for the public good. That it would be difficult for me to influence him in any other circumſtances is pretty evident, ſince all thoſe gentlemen, who lately obtained ſuch large preſents, could not influence him to accept of a ſhare. To accept, under ſuch pretences to merit, was contrary to his principles, and inconſiſtent with his idea of duty to the Company. Mr. *Verelſt*, therefore, will always reflect honour on the man who influences him, and be a faithful guardian of the truſt repoſed in him by his employers. As to the General, I believe this is the firſt time he was ever accuſed of implicit obedience, or blind ſubmiſſion to the dictates of a Governor. Mr. *Leyceſter* might have recollected, that General *Carnac* has often convinced the Council of *Fort-William*, that he was not only poſſeſſed of an unbiaſſed judgment of his own, but of a ſpirit to pronounce it, in oppoſition to power and majority, and even to friendſhip itſelf, where meaſures propoſed, or carried into execution, were inconſiſtent with his idea of the Company's welfare. That General *Carnac* is warm in temper, and ſometimes ſo in expreſſion, the Court of Directors have been already apprized; but they alſo know, that his warmth has always been exerted in the cauſe of virtue and the Company, as it ever proceeded from the goodneſs and openneſs of his heart. Mr. *Leyceſter* knows this, as well as every body elſe, and ought, I think, to have been among the firſt to acknowledge it.

I perfectly remember the having ſaid, that it would not be amiſs for the General to have a man with a gugket of water ready to pour upon his head, whenever he ſhould begin to grow warm in debate: but the words *and have prevented ſuch imprudent aſſertions* are entirely of Mr. *Leyceſter*'s own coining, and therefore falſe.

As to Mr. *Leyceſter*'s declaration, that he has heard me, in a common company, give a regular detail of the committee-proceedings on any occaſion of conſequence previous to their being laid before the board, I maintain it to be a falſhood, and challenge him to point out the time, place, and circumſtances.

It is well known, that the proceedings in conſultation uſed to be the conſtant ſubject of table converſation; but I appeal to any man's obſervation, whether the like practice now prevails?

(Signed) CLIVE.

I have not time to anſwer Meſſieurs *Leyceſter* and *Gray*'s letter of ninety pages to the Court of Directors. In the poſtſcript there are ſome particulars which call upon me for an anſwer; but the letter itſelf, from the curſory view I have given it, appears to ſpeak more in favour of my meaſures than I could for them myſelf, for which I return thoſe two gentlemen many thanks.

(Signed) CLIVE.

Mr.

Mr. *Verelſt* gives in the following minute, and papers accompanying, in anſwer to Mr. *Leyceſter*'s of the 2d *December*:

I ſhould not thus long have delayed a reply to Mr. *Leyceſter*'s minute of the 2d *December*, had I been earlier furniſhed with a copy of it, which only arrived with me a few days ago, and juſt before my departure from *Midnipore*; nor would I now intrude on the attention of this board, whoſe time is employed in affairs of ſo much greater importance, did I not find laid before it the ſentiments, or rather artful inſinuations, of a man attempting to caſt an odium on the conduct, characters, and principles of ſeveral members thereof: the real motive and tendency of which unfair and unjuſt repreſentation will now appear obvious to every impartial examiner. As I can only eſteem the circumſtances from whence the debates at the board have ariſen, as occurrences common to the nature of this government, and which has ever been practiſed without cenſure, or even diſapprobation; yet, common as theſe have been, it has been found convenient to draw arguments, the moſt ſpecious, penned in the moſt declamatory ſtyle, to alarm the minds of the public, and lead them to a belief, not only of their prerogatives being encroached on, but the very foundation of our conſtitutional rights and liberties, as *Engliſhmen*, totally ſubverted.

Ramnaut, the perſon who has been under the charge of a military guard by the Preſident, and which has been ſo loudly called out againſt, is as repeatedly avowed by himſelf, a native of a foreign place, no ways connected with our diſtricts, but bred up, and ſtill is, a * natural inhabitant of *Maldah*. He is accuſed of the moſt atrocious crimes, and is occaſionally come to *Calcutta*, where he has neither houſe nor family, is a ſubject of the Nabob's, and a delinquent. Yet Mr. *Leyceſter*'s apprehenſions of that military power which has been exerted to prevent this man's *eſcape from juſtice*, has been by him induſtriouſly propagated as an exertion of military government, to the total excluſion of the civil power. However Mr. *Leyceſter* may endeavour to plume himſelf with thinking he here ſtands forth the champion of civil liberty and the rights of the *Engliſh* conſtitution, yet I can faithfully aſſure him, that he will find others as ſacred guardians of thoſe privileges, when an infringement is abſolutely offered, as he can poſſibly demonſtrate himſelf to be, on any occaſion whatever. Temporal felicity is the whole end of government: but from the great contrarieties in the diſpoſitions and principles of mankind, the lives and properties of the good cannot be ſecured, without a neceſſary guard, or infliction of puniſhment on the bad. When theſe are pointed out, it is equally incumbent on every man to endeavour to bring ſuch to juſtice, as it is to guard from encroachment the liberties and privileges derived to each member, by virtue of the conſtitution and of the laws of his country: and in the preſent caſe, there is not the leaſt authority or foundation for aſſerting, that the life, liberty, or privilege of any one ſubject of *Great Britain* has been the leaſt infringed, or even endangered.

* A natural inhabitant of *Maldah* would here be protected from military violence, by thoſe laws which would judicially puniſh him for guilt, under the adminiſtration of civil power only, no other being conſtitutionally applicable.

In

On the proceedings of the board, of the 5th of *May* 1764, of which board Mr. *Leyceſter* was then a member, on the ſubject of * *European* agents employed up the country, I read in the general opinion the following paragraph: "Shall there then be no government, no reſtraint upon thoſe exceſſes which either ignorance, paſſion, or ſelf-intereſt may lead an *Engliſh* agent to commit in the country?" This is really the caſe at preſent; and although it is very certain, that ſome of the gentlemen employed are of unexceptionable character, and whoſe good behaviour might be depended on, yet many there are of a contrary diſpoſition. But there are many arguments to prove, that both the good and the bad ſhould be under ſome law. Yet, if we examine the caſe of the *Engliſh* agents up the country, we ſhall find they are under none. Our charter does not authorize our courts to take cognizance of any crime they might commit in thoſe parts, and it has been laid down as a fundamental principle, that the country government ſhall have no power over them.

Mr. *Leyceſter*, I ſay, was at this time a member of the board, whoſe opinion, I think, muſt have coincided with the reſt, as it ſtands noted, "The "general opinion." Yet Mr. *Leyceſter*, after refuſing to extend our laws to our own countrymen, for what might be done up the country, now demands the benefit of them on behalf of a man, a native of this country, neither educated nor inſtructed therein, and who, ſo far from claiming them himſelf, ever diſavows a title thereto, being come down to this ſettlement on occaſional buſineſs, and one whom Mr. *Leyceſter* has acknowledged to be, in his opinion, a very bad man; and this to no other end or purpoſe, that I can ſee, than to afford him an opportunity to eſcape an examination into the crimes he is accuſed of; nor does this appear to be the only inſtance of Mr. *Leyceſter*'s intentions and endeavours to ſcreen offenders from juſtice.

On its being taken for granted, that *Ramnaut* is a natural inhabitant of *Calcutta*, Mr. *Leyceſter* founds all his arguments; but the man himſelf diſavowing the plea, overſets the very foundation of his reaſoning. Suppoſe, for a moment, however, no ſuch diſavowal to be made, yet ſhall a ſubject of the Nabob's, one intruſted in office, but betraying his truſt, or guilty of any other crime whatſoever, ſhall ſuch a man, by a partial interpoſition of a member of this government, whether as a ſervant, or reſiding ſome months within our diſtricts, without the public protection of the flag being given him, ſhall he be protected from juſtice? To this Mr. *Leyceſter* makes not the leaſt reſerve, but declares he muſt be conſidered by our laws as an inhabitant.

What right the bench of juſtices, at their quarterly ſeſſions, had to make a proclamation of our laws being extended to the black inhabitants, they beſt know who aſſumed *that royal prerogative, an act unjuſtifiable in itſelf, and in its natural conſequences cruel and oppreſſive.* That our laws are in many inſtances more mild than thoſe of this country, is certainly true; but that they are again in many caſes more ſevere, making offences capital that are here only fineable, or puniſhable by ſome ſlight corporal chaſtiſement, is alſo as true.

* See Mr. *Verelſt*'s own minute on the ſame ſubject, letter A. number IX.

The inhabitants of this ſettlement have called out, and under the hands of the moſt principal of them, petitioned for redreſs in the moſt pathetic terms, ſetting forth the cruelty and oppreſſion of ſubjecting them to laws that are utterly unknown to them. Mr. *Leyceſter* cannot be unacquainted with this, yet having conſcientiouſly (I ſuppoſe) exerted the ſeverity of our laws on ſome, he would, as a compenſation, thruſt the advantage of their protection down the throats of others, who have not, nor want to ſolicit them themſelves; and in an inſtance too, where no *Britiſh* ſubject's life, or property, is ſaid to be concerned. The petition in queſtion is ſo ſtriking an inſtance of the opinion which the inhabitants entertain on this occaſion, that I requeſt it may have a place on the records of this board. The injurious aſſertion of having endeavoured to palliate and explain away, as it were, the ſtrength of General *Carnac*'s addreſs to Mr. *Leyceſter*, is an accuſation ſo incompatible with the integrity of my own heart, that I look down on it with contempt. Truth, I ſcorn to deviate from, in the moſt trivial occurrence; nor could this thought have occurred to Mr. *Leyceſter*, on an occaſion where my ſolemn oath had been given, but in the bitterneſs of malice and detraction. The ſame ſpirit ſeemed to have governed his opinion of the abſolute influence, he ſays, Lord *Clive* ſeems to have over me, that I dare not differ from his lordſhip in ſentiment. I cannot help obſerving, that in the very next paragraph to this, Mr. *Leyceſter* contradicts himſelf, by aſſerting, that on the 18th, when Lord *Clive* was called on, by General *Carnac*, to relate the converſation that paſſed, his lordſhip joined in ſentiment with me. He alſo aſſerts, that I being a civil magiſtrate, neglected to interpoſe with my authority for the relief of *Ramnaut*, by which I imagine he would infer, I had not done my duty as a juſtice, in not immediately granting a GENERAL WARRANT, which Mr. *Gray* applied to me for, in order to take up every perſon concerned in the confinement of *Ramnaut*, without particularizing any one ſingle perſon; a requeſt I could not, as a juſtice, grant.

A neglect of duty is ſuch an obvious falſhood, called in to ſupport his other arguments, ſo eaſily detected by a reference to the records of the bench of juſtices, of which Mr. *Leyceſter* himſelf was a member, one would have imagined, ſhould have made him bluſh. He may there ſee, that I inſtantly called a whole bench of juſtices, on Mr. *Gray*'s application, telling Mr. *Gray*, that I deſired him, and ordered the perſons he brought to give their depoſitions, to attend that bench, which would ſit immediately, and who all actually met in forty-five minutes afterwards. Mr. *Gray* having ſubſequently thought proper to throw out an accuſation before the bench, when met, of neglect of juſtice, neceſſitated me to put the following queſtion to him. If I did not reply to Mr. *Gray*, that I would deſire a bench of juſtices immediately to ſit and determine upon the matter, and likewiſe ordered the evidences to attend for that purpoſe? That this happened exactly at a quarter before nine this morning, and the juſtices met exactly half an hour after nine. Mr. *Gray* informed the bench in anſwer, that it was ſo; and that he replied, that every moment the man continued under this improper confinement, it was ſo much detriment to him; and that it was poſſible, during

ing this delay, the people who committed this violence might make their eſcape, or words to that effect.

Mr. *Leyceſter* miſunderſtands the duty of a juſtice, if he thinks that every one is neceſſitated to act ſo far inſtantly of himſelf when applied to, as not to have an authority of ſummoning and taking the opinion of his brethren juſtices, on any matter he would chuſe to have it, and none I think could require it more than this application. Suppoſe, for a moment, that this warrant ought to have been granted, on an inſtant application, Mr. *Leyceſter*, who was ſo minutely acquainted for ſome days before with every circumſtance, and being alſo a juſtice, is ſurely then more neglectful of his duty, by not granting to Mr. *Gray* an immediate warrant himſelf, more eſpecially as, I believe, Mr. *Leyceſter* was the acting juſtice in the ſettlement at the time.

But what may not be expected from a man who is ſo far loſt to himſelf, that he could offer to take a ſolemn oath at this board, that he had not received any money from *Mahommed Reza Khawn*, though, at the ſame time he had, in his own or *Mooteram*'s poſſeſſion (immediately at his own command, and the money waiting his call) a bill due on *Juggutſeat* for the payment of fifty thouſand rupees, which is as good as ready money to every merchant in theſe parts.

Mr. *Leyceſter* is pleaſed to ſay, that General *Carnac* and myſelf appeared to bring our parts in the ſcene ready prepared, which muſt be a proof to the world that we came predetermined to condemn him. I do declare, that I came with a full determination to condemn Mr. *Leyceſter*, provided he appeared (as I thought he did) to be the author and propagator of the injurious and falſe reports ſpread about the town; and conſidering Mr. *Leyceſter*'s general conduct, as a member of the board, for ſome time before, I judged him highly deſerving a ſuſpenſion from the ſervice. This opinion I dare ſay Lord *Clive* and General *Carnac* may recollect to have heard me often mention.

Though I have not, as yet, had an opportunity of peruſing the letter which Meſſrs. *Leyceſter* and *Gray* ſent in laſt Council-day, to be tranſmitted to the honourable Court of Directors; yet I am informed, that it contains two charges againſt me, the one accuſing me of enjoying the moſt numerous lucrative appointments, and the other arraigning my attachment to the meaſures of his lordſhip. To the firſt, I ſhall readily acknowledge, that I hold the appointment of ſupervifor of the three provinces of *Burdwan*, *Midnipore* and *Jellaſore*, and am alſo export-warehouſe keeper. Theſe provinces have been lucrative poſſeſſions to my predeceſſors. If truth and candour had been the object of Meſſrs. *Leyceſter* and *Gray*'s animadverſions, they might readily have informed themſelves, that the emoluments to my predeceſſors in thoſe countries have every rupee been brought by me to the credit of the honourable Company; to verify which, it is unneceſſary here to ſay more than appeal to the preſent ſtatement of the revenues of theſe provinces. It is true, I have had the advantage of ſhewing my readineſs to undertake any thing that can promote the intereſt of my employers, be my appointment what it will, without a thought of emolument to myſelf. It is alſo true, that I have had an opportunity of relieving the natives from many oppreſſions they groaned under. My conduct in theſe points I leave, with

a ſelf-applauding ſatisfaction, to the candid reſult of my honourable maſters. As to the emoluments of the office of export-warehouſe keeper, I know of none, further than the allowance which the honourable Company have thought proper to allot thereto.

In regard to the ſecond charge, I do acknowledge myſelf firmly attached to his lordſhip *in the purſuit of all the meaſures which thoſe gentlemen have pointed out, and am determined to perſevere in the proſecution of them*; a work founded on ſuch a juſt and ſolid foundation, that, as a ſpectator, I ſhould admire, but as an actor in the ſcene, I GLORY IN. The paths of right and wrong are ſo ſtrongly coloured in every man's breaſt, that the road cannot be miſtaken, unleſs the dark ſhades of ſelf-intereſted motives intervene, to blind our way. Theſe, I hope we have undergone the moſt weighty part of our labours, in rooting out. When principles coincide, and have but one juſt object to purſue, can it be a ſurprize that there ſhould be no difference in ſentiment? or rather would it not be a much greater ſurprize, ſhould ſuch an attachment not enſue? How far we have purſued that which is right, our actions, and the motives of them, muſt ſpeak to the world.

(Signed) H. VERELST.

MR. SYKES delivers in the following minute, in anſwer to what relates to him in Meſſrs. *Leyceſter* and *Gray*'s addreſs to the Court of Directors:

A joint addreſs of Meſſrs. *Leyceſter* and *Gray*'s to the honourable the Court of Directors having been laid before the board, I cannot, in juſtice to the character I have ever ſupported in the ſervice, omit making a few obſervations on ſuch parts of that laborious production, as ſeem calculated to reflect upon my honour and conduct. My reputation, however, muſt be very low indeed, if what they have preſumed to advance, can bring it down to that ſtandard to which their's has long been reduced; and I cannot help thinking, that their time would have been much more rationally employed, in finding (if they could have found) ſubſtantial arguments in vindication of their own conduct, than in ſo feeble an accuſation of mine. But the truth is, aſhamed of being ſeen at home, under ſo heavy a load of facts as have been proved againſt them, they would fain divert the obſervation of the world, by ſetting up different objects around them,—Lord *Clive*, General *Carnac*, Mr. *Verelſt*, Mr. *Sykes*. I am very happy to find myſelf in ſuch good company.—To have been exempted, might have raiſed ſuſpicions of a neglect of duty.

It is inſinuated, that my connection with his lordſhip proceeds from an attention to my own intereſt. I am neither ſurprized, nor vexed at any inſinuation of this ſort from Meſſrs. *Leyceſter* and *Gray*, becauſe I ſuppoſe the word PRINCIPLE did not occur to them. But let us ſee how this ſuſpicion of ſelf-intereſt can be ſupported? I would begin with informing theſe gentlemen, as a fact, that the poſt of Reſident at the *Durbar* fell to my lot, unſolicited by me; but as that bears ſome reſemblance to a thing called DISINTERESTEDNESS (another word that I ſuppoſe did not occur to them) I ſhall

not

not puzzle them by dwelling on ſuch a paradox. I cannot however be contradicted when I aſſert, that my rank in the ſervice is ſuperior to that of any former Reſident; my commiſſion and powers more extenſive; MY ALLOWANCES LESS. With regard to other advantages, known by the name of perquiſites, preſents, *nuzzers*, *ſelaamys*, &c. &c. I muſt declare, however inconſiſtent it may be with the ideas of thoſe gentlemen, that I never, during the courſe of my ſixteen years ſervice, received one preſent by which I could benefit my fortune. That the ſtation of Reſident has been extremely beneficial to my predeceſſors, I could prove, not only from the frequent declarations of the Nabob to me, of the large ſums of money taken from him, but likewiſe *by the treaſury accounts at* Murſhedabad, *which I have peruſed with aſtoniſhment*. Mr. *Gray*, as a traveller through the city, contrived, in a few hours, to get from his excellency 25,000 rupees, for future, imaginary, negative ſervices; and Mr. *Leyceſter*, who was one of the deputation, found means to procure, in three weeks, as ample a fortune as would ſatisfy any moderate man, after a ſervice of as many years. It is, I conclude, from theſe circumſtances, that the gentlemen have formed their notions of my advantages; they have meaſured my corn by their own buſhel.

The allowance and advantages to the chief of *Coſſimbazar*, for ſupporting a general table, has been generally 16,000 rupees *per annum*, THE ALLOWANCE TO ME IS ONLY FOUR THOUSAND. Thus falſe and ridiculous is their charge againſt me.—But I am not ſurprized, that Meſſrs. *Leyceſter* and *Gray*, without ſtanding upon the ceremony of truth, ſhould endeavour to throw reflections upon any man, who has the reſolution and integrity to aſſiſt Lord *Clive* in the laborious taſk of *eradicating* LUXURY, CORRUPTION, *and* RAPACITY; *which have too long flouriſhed without controul in this ſettlement.*

(Signed) FRANCIS SYKES.

COPY of the 17th and 18th Paragraphs of a Letter from Lord Clive *and the Select Committee to the Court of* Eaſt India *Directors. Dated*, Calcutta, *the 31ſt* January *1766.*

PARAGRAPH XVII.

You will obſerve from the conſultations that Mr. *Leyceſter* ſtands ſuſpended, and that Mr. *Gray* reſigned the ſervice, while his conduct, during his reſidence at *Maldah*, was under conſideration of the board. You will alſo perceive the obſtruction given to all public buſineſs by cavilling, debate, and unſeaſonable minutes, while theſe two gentlemen remained at the board. Thoſe minutes are of themſelves ſufficient teſtimony of the ſpirit which actuated ſo extraordinary a behaviour; they are indecent, violent, and factious, beyond any thing ever before tolerated in this government, in the moſt licentious times.

Meſſrs. *Leyceſter* and *Gray* no ſooner perceived the laſh of correction removed, than they, unmindful of the lenity of the Committee, when we might with propriety, and indeed ought to have ſuſpended them the ſervice, ſet up a determined oppoſition, and dared to ridicule and inſult the government upon

upon all occaſions. Yet we bore this uſage with patience, out of regard to your ſituation; and replied to their minutes with temper, until Mr. *Leyceſter* proceeded to ſuch lengths of licentiouſneſs, as tended to involve the ſettlement in anarchy and civil diſſentions. He publiſhed an expreſſion haſtily dropt by General *Carnac* at the board, with ſuch additional and aggravating circumſtances, as were beſt calculated to raiſe a ferment in the minds of the people, and excite the inhabitants to open ſedition. The alarm, that we were about to introduce a military government, became ſo general, we thought it incumbent on us to trace the author of ſuch dangerous calumny; and upon a conviction that Mr. *Leyceſter* had forged and publiſhed it, with a deſign of weakening the hands of adminiſtration, we judged it neceſſary to ſuſpend him, as unworthy of his ſtation in your ſervice.

Paragraph XVIII.

We need not take up your time in juſtifying a meaſure that became indiſpenſably neceſſary, unleſs we meant to relinquiſh all attempts to effect that general reformation ſo eſſential to the ſtability and permanency of your poſſeſſions. Mr. *Leyceſter* had ſtrenuouſly oppoſed every meaſure which tended to the correction of abuſes; and even while he was acting in the capacity of a magiſtrate and judge, moſt ſhamefully endeavoured to ſuppreſs, pervert, and ſtifle evidences relative to Mr. *Gray*'s conduct. His own minute upon the occaſion, that produced his ſuſpenſion, ſo ſtrongly points out the violent deſigns he entertained, that we could ſit no longer at the ſame board with any regard to our own characters, or proſpect of advantage to your ſervice. From the loud cry raiſed by Mr. *Gray* and him, againſt military force and arbitrary power, one would naturally conceive the Preſident had deprived half the *Britiſh* ſubjects in the ſettlement of their birth-right. The fact, however, was nothing more, than that Lord *Clive* had ordered a guard of ſeapoys over *Ramnaut*, a man of infamous character, ſaid to be employed by Mr. *Gray* in the moſt iniquitous acts of extortion, and a native of *Malda*, who himſelf * *refuſed to claim the protection of our laws*, becauſe he ſhould thereby become ſubject to the puniſhment to which thoſe laws condemn his offences. Whereas numberleſs inſtances occur in former governments in *Bengal*, of natives, inhabitants of *Calcutta*, being confined by military guards, upon acculations of infinitely leſs conſequence to the public weal. In ſhort, theſe two gentlemen were ſo diſcontented, and induſtrious in propagating the ſeeds of their humour, that we are firmly convinced the ſuſpenſion of the one was neceſſary, and the reſignation of the other is conducive to the benefit of your ſervice. Yet theſe are the gentlemen who, we are told, flatter themſelves with the hopes of juſtifying their conduct to your ſatisfaction, and of returning again to the management of your concerns in *Bengal*.—Should this event

* Mr. *Verelſt*, who was one of the ſubſcribers to this letter, flatly contradicts this account of *Ramnaut*'s averſion to the *Engliſh* laws, in his book, where he aſſerts, "*Ramnaut* was "diſcharged from confinement to proſecute a ſuit commenced in the Mayor's court;"—and again, "In *April* 1767, he applied by letter to the Governor for leave to lay his caſe "before the Juries at the next ſeſſions." See *Verelſt*'s View, page 32.

ever

ever happen, we have only to wiſh, and we fervently do wiſh, although contrary to all probability, that your affairs may proſper.

From Conſultation the 3d February 1766.

General *Carnac* delivers in the following minute:

Whatever faults I may be guilty of, I little ſuſpected that a ſelfiſh regard to my own intereſt, or an implicit obedience to the will of any one, without having an opinion of my own, would have been brought into the account, eſpecially in theſe parts, where I have given ſo many proofs to the contrary of both, and where the reverſe is ſo univerſally allowed to be my character. I ſhould, therefore, have treated ſo falſe and malicious a charge, contained in the joint addreſs to the Court of Directors, from Meſſrs. *Leyceſter* and *Gray*, with the contempt it deſerved, by leaving it unnoticed; but was apprehenſive my ſilence might perhaps be miſconſtrued as a confeſſion by my employers, to few of whom my private character is known.

I need not enter into a juſtification of the ſtep of re-admitting *Bulwantſing*, as my reaſons for ſo doing ſtand upon record. He had withdrawn himſelf from our army; but as ſoon as he heard the news that I WAS coming up to the command of it, he immediately, and of his own accord, wrote to me for permiſſion to return; and his good behaviour, during the ſubſequent invaſion of the *Marahtahs*, at the call of *Sujah al Dowlah*, has demonſtrated, that the embracing his offer of returning was a judicious meaſure. I never made a ſecret of my having received a preſent from *Bulwantſing*; but ſo far from my having a view thereto in the engagement I entered into with him, the money was paid by him, on my account, without my knowledge of his having ever ſuch an intention; and I can alſo aver its being paid previouſly to my having any advice of the covenants. To one ſtudious of his own intereſt, the ſituation I was in with *Sujah al Dowlah* afforded an ample field, yet I bargained with him only for the Company; and I declare, upon my honour, I never received from him, for my own uſe, a ſingle rupee. Had either Mr. *Leyceſter* or Mr. *Gray* been ſo circumſtanced, I may boldly pronounce, from the ſkill which they have ſhewn in turning to good account the inconſiderable connections they have had with the country government, that they would have gone at leaſt halves with their maſters, or more probably ſecured the better half for themſelves. In proof of my diſintereſtedneſs, I need only appeal to the whole ſettlement, in the perſuaſion, that every unprejudiced perſon therein will admit, that had I been actuated by intereſt, rather than principle, I have had it in my power, inſtead of being poſſeſſed but of a competent fortune, to be maſter perhaps of as large a one as ever was carried out of *India*.

The remark made by Meſſrs. *Leyceſter* and *Gray*, on the difference of my conduct to Lord *Clive*, from that which I held towards his predeceſſors, is as ſtrong an argument as I could have wiſhed, in ſupport of my having a will of my own. Such an intimacy had ſubſiſted on the coaſt between Mr. *Vanſittart* and me (for the truth whereof I appeal to himſelf) that no one

could have a better right than he to expect my concurrence with him in his measures; and however the violence of party may have afterwards occasioned ill blood between us, it was with much regret I at first opposed him; and nothing could have influenced me thereto, but the sense of the duty I owed to the Company, when I judged the measures to be entirely repugnant to their honour and interests. The conviction, that the system adopted by Lord *Clive* has quite a contrary tendency, and that he is zealously labouring for the public good, is the motive of my so heartily coinciding with him. While his lordship perseveres in so laudable a pursuit, which from his established character, the general tenor of his conduct, and his independency, we may justly infer he ever will do, it will be my greatest pride to exert my utmost endeavours to keep pace with him. But were it possible, that he should deviate from so glorious a track, I should not hesitate to quit him, notwithstanding the strong tie of gratitude by which I am bound to his lordship.

With regard to the covenants, it is true I did not execute mine at the time of my first receiving them, because they were dated too far back, and previously to my being made acquainted with them; and I was in the less hurry to go through this CEREMONY *by reason, that I looked upon myself as equally bound by them, whether executed or not*, from the moment I was publicly apprized of the Company's pleasure on that subject.

(Signed) JOHN CARNAC.

From Consultation the 3d March 1766.

Mr. *Gray*'s minute, in answer to Lord *Clive*.

Lord *Clive*, in his minute of the 28th *October*, assumes his usual stile of affected superiority, and contempt for those of different sentiments from himself. Although I do not feel myself hurt by his contumelious manner, yet as the appearance of submission may encourage him to a continuance of it, I will here, without scruple, treat his lordship with that freedom of sentiment and expression, of which he has set me the example.

He very graciously condescends to indulge me with answers to my queries, but is mistaken in the intent of them. I meant them, not with a view of exculpating my conduct, but drawing from himself, a proof how much his own requires exculpation. I shall proceed to make remarks on his answers, and observations, in the same order he has followed.

His answer to my *first* query fully proves to me whatever I had before alleged regarding complaints, and the means of an ungenerous mind in the intention of making them subservient to his purposes. Though he industriously propagated, that he had received complaints against me, in order to intimidate, yet he never directly gave me the least intimation, or afforded me an opportunity of satisfying him on the subject. Nay, for several days together, he brought to Council papers which he hinted were complaints against me; and although I desired to know what they were, yet he refused to give me any information, or permission for their being read at the board. He pretended he was sending for witnesses; but why did he take the mean

advantage

advantage of ſtrengthening himſelf by ſummoning every informer he could inliſt under his banner, without allowing me an opportunity of calling in a ſingle witneſs in my defence. Or, if he ſtood forth a profeſſed accuſer, how came he to ſit in judgment on my conduct? The truth is, that he was conſcious that his pretended accuſations were ſo trifling in themſelves, and ſo ill ſupported, that when he was called upon to produce them, he found himſelf reduced to the neceſſity of uſing the utmoſt unjuſtifiable means in ſearch of more capable informers, and new matters of aſperſion.

To his *ſecond* anſwer I have to obſerve, that if his lordſhip never authorized any perſon whomſoever to demand, by threats or guards, letters or other papers relative to my fortune or connections, *Nobekiſſen Munſhy*, *Mahommed Reza Khawn*, and others "have taken great liberties with his lordſhip's "name." *Nobekiſſen Munſhy* having opened a letter to *Mahommed Bucks*, *&c.* demanded from *Mahommed Bucks* the copies of my letters to *Meer Aſhruff* by threats. *Mahommed Reza Khawn* has demanded falſe accuſations from people in the city, as I can prove by letters when I think it neceſſary. My letter has been demanded from *Bolakydaſs*: my accounts, as I have been informed, have been demanded from *Ramnaut*, even while under confinement, and copies of papers have been demanded from *Seroopchund*, from his memory, which were thought to relate to me.——It were abſurd to think, that ſuch a number of circumſtances of this ſort could happen at the ſame time, without his lordſhip's knowledge; and it can ſcarcely be believed, that his lordſhip's ſervants or adminiſtration at the city durſt take ſuch ſteps without orders. What ſtreſs may therefore be laid on his lordſhip's honour, on the preſent occaſion, every man muſt judge for himſelf.

There is no evidence *Buſſunt Roy* or *Mooteram* could give on the points relative to the conduct of Mr. *Johnſtone*, their maſter, which could juſtify the oppreſſive and unlawful meaſure of ſeizing them with a military guard, in order to extort matter of accuſation from them. Such an offence againſt the rights and privileges of *Britiſh* ſubjects, living under the civil juriſdiction, infinitely exceeds the worſt they could lay to Mr. *Johnſtone*'s charge. Racks and tortures have been long exploded from our conſtitution. They are the execrable expedients of tyranny to effect its purpoſes, but I ſee no difference betwixt ſuch actual tortures and the infamous ſyſtem of ſeizing the man from whom information is required by a military guard. That houſe which ought to be his ſhelter is rendered his dungeon. The inſolent guards abuſe him. He is not ſuffered to ſatisfy even the common occaſions of nature, without paying dearly for it. He is terrified with the ſevereſt threats; yet at the ſame time given to underſtand, that if he would make diſcoveries agreeable to Lord *Clive*, he may purchaſe his eaſe. He is ſolemnly paraded through the town under a guard, carried before the frowning Preſident, where, under all the horrors of ſuch a ſituation, ſevere queſtions are aſked him, ſuch as, together with the hints before given him, point out the deſired anſwers. Human nature cannot bear ſuch a burden, without having recourſe to any expedient for relief. Without regard to truth, the trembling priſoner will ſay whatever promiſes to relieve his preſent diſtreſs, and under

ſuch circumſtances (the very ſyſtem of an inquiſition) many have been known to condemn themſelves of facts which even the judges perfectly knew they were innocent of. It is a dangerous example, may afford precedent and room for the moſt flagitious oppreſſion; and the evidence ſo procured muſt always be doubtful in fact, and invalid in law.

In the inſtance of *Mooteram*, we find his information againſt Mr. *Johnſtone* had the effect of clearing him; which points out the ſure road of relief to all who may be under the like circumſtances. As to *Ramnaut*, doubtleſs the ſame meaſures will be taken with reſpect to him, as were with *Mooteram*.—The plea of flying the country, for ſeizing and confining him with military guards for weeks, though a vain pretext in the eye of our law, may always be alleged by an oppreſſive Governor of his lordſhip's ingenuity. On the preſent occaſion I will take upon me to pronounce, that the man had no ſuch intention, *or, if he had, the plea was certainly obviated by* MY OFFER OF BAIL FOR HIS APPEARANCE.

In anſwer to the following declarations of his lordſhip, "That I have "placed a military guard upon any one, ſince Mr. *Gray* called upon me to "produce evidence againſt him, is utterly falſe:" I muſt remark, that it were well if his lordſhip would be pleaſed to recollect himſelf, when he is ſo poſitive. I gave in my minute, deſiring an inquiry, on the 25th *September*, and *Ramnaut* was not ſeized till the 30th of *September*: but this is not the firſt time his lordſhip's memory has failed him in his round aſſertions, as is notorious from the following circumſtance. His lordſhip, in the general letter by the *Admiral Stevens*, aſſures the Court of Directors, that he never told Mr. *Middleton*, as that gentleman had aſſerted, that it was the intention of the committee to remove him ſhortly, and place Mr. *Sykes* at the *Durbar*, in his ſtead. Now I declare I ſaw a letter, ſigned by Lord *Clive*, wrote at the period to which Mr. *Middleton* alluded, about the beginning of *July*, 1765; wherein his lordſhip, ſpeaking of Mr. *Middleton*, has theſe very words, "He is to be removed a few months hence from his employment." And the poſtſcript, in Lord *Clive*'s own hand, has a reference to the vacancy that would be occaſioned in the committee, by Mr. *Sykes*'s nomination to the *Durbar*.—This letter I ſaw at the time, and apprehend Mr. *Middleton*'s aſſertion, ſo corroborated, will be fully credited by the world, though his lordſhip has thought proper to deny it.

As the *Perwanahs Bolakydaſs* received, under the hands of two *Engliſh* Governors, had encouraged him to leave his ſecure retreat, and come down to *Calcutta*, ſo they ought to have inſured him protection: and, if any thing was laid to his charge, a fair and candid trial. But inſtead of that, Lord *Clive*, regardleſs of his public faith, and biaſſed by a partiality he has avowed to *Juggut Seat*, he ſingly, of his own accord, inflicted the moſt ſevere puniſhment upon *Bolakydaſs*, without ever allowing him a hearing, or receiving any information, but what he got from his profeſſed enemy.

In this he has aſſumed to himſelf a power beyond what the laws allow to any ſingle man within the realm, over the lives and properties of individuals. But I am at a loſs to judge from whence it is, that Lord *Clive* ſeems in this,

to

to place ſo much value upon the late *Juggut Seat*'s merits with the *Engliſh*; the principal of which, that I can recollect, was his application for the *jaguеer*, which Lord *Clive* received from the preſent Nabob's father. Gratitude, I preſume, to the memory of the father, engages his lordſhip to ſhew ſuch extraordinary kindneſs to the ſon.

In reply to his anſwer on the ſubject of my laſt query, where he expects the names of my authors, I muſt aſſure the Board, that I believe my authority to have been perfect, good, and genuine: but I have too much regard and tenderneſs for the ſafety and eaſe of the perſons, by publiſhing their names, to betray and expoſe them to Lord *Clive*'s implacable reſentment.—But the event has proved the truth of my belief. *Bolakydaſs* ever expreſſed a gratitude to me, for the aſſiſtance I afforded him in his diſtreſs; and would never have tendered any information to my prejudice, had it not been demanded of him, or had he not been compelled to it.

His lordſhip, having thus diſpatched my firſt queries, proceeds to anſwer thoſe contained in my minute of the 18th of *October*, which he ſays are intended as a ſevere attack upon his honour, and therefore require particular attention. His lordſhip has in one of his former minutes obſerved, that I miſtook for difference of ſentiments what was really difference of Principles; meaning, doubtleſs, that I had acted from ſelfiſh and lucrative motives, whereas he acted entirely from the moſt diſintereſted and ſelf-denying views. A man ought to be careful that his conduct has been always unexceptionable, when he arraigns the principles of another. And in that caſe his honour ſtands ſecure from any wound.—I therefore have afforded him an opportunity to clear up to the world thoſe points which have been held very doubtful. Indeed his lordſhip ought to thank me, and embrace the occaſion, to refute, by clear and inconteſtable arguments or proofs, what it is ſo much his buſineſs to refute. If he neglects the occaſion, let him colour it with what pretence he will, ſuſpicions will be confirmed, and grow into belief. It is not by declaring one's ſelf-approbation to the world, or by affecting a contempt of the accuſer, that ſuſpicions will be removed. The one may be deemed an ebullition of ſelf-praiſe, ariſing from a heart ſwoln with pride and conceit; the other, an arrogant exultation in ſuperiority of rank, which gives a man who poſſeſſes more power than politeneſs, a liberty of venting his malice or ſpleen in indecent terms. But to attend to his lordſhip's explanation of the matter.

As to his ſurmiſe, that I inſinuated he was concerned in the frauds on the new works, it is entirely groundleſs; and his lordſhip might have ſpared himſelf the trouble of finding out a meaning which I neither intended, nor which can be implied from the words of my minute. I only meant to ſet his lordſhip's turn of mind in theſe inquiries in a comparative view with that of Mr. *Holwell*, where the latter gentleman appears with ſo much ſuperiority. Mr. *Holwell* was too generous to endeavour to caſt an odium on the adminiſtration which preceded him, for abuſes which ſubſiſted then, as Lord *Clive* has done, although had he been poſſeſſed of his lordſhip's ſpirit of wounding reputations, he had probably as ample a field.

As to the nature of the fictitious treaty, it might perhaps, in a political view, have been neceſſary to deceive *Omichund*, but the application of the money which *Omichund* was once given to expect, requires particular explanation.

It would be entertaining to the world, if his lordſhip would explain what could be the inducement that led Admiral *Watſon* to authorize another gentleman to ſign his name, and affix his ſeal, when he did not chuſe to do it himſelf?

Suppoſing the ſum ſtipulated in the fictitious treaty was not ſtruck off, purpoſely to be divided amongſt Lord *Clive* and ſundry other gentlemen; will his lordſhip declare, upon his honour, that the money mentioned in a paper, known by the name of the * *Lall Cauguz*, was not divided, or whether, in ſhort, a ſum of money betwixt thirty and forty lacks, found in the Nabob's treaſury at *Murſhedabad*, was not divided betwixt himſelf and ſundry other gentlemen, excluſive of what was ſtipulated for the Select Committee and the army? I ſhall only remark, that Lord *Clive*'s ſhare of committee-money and donation to the army did not exceed 70,000l. Sterling. It would therefore be a ſatisfaction to the world, in vindication of his lordſhip's character, if he would relate the times and circumſtances by which he obtained the remainder of his amazing fortune, acquired in ſo ſhort a period. When the world conſiders the means by which Lord *Clive* raiſed a princely fortune, it muſt be matter of amazement to ſee him preaching moderation in the Settlement, and attacking all thoſe who have benefited by means of which he ſet an example. He ſeems now to conſider the receiving preſents as an act highly criminal, having no immediate occaſion for increaſing his own fortune by this method.

By cenſuring the corruption of the ſettlement he would manifeſt his own uprightneſs and virtue; by ſetting forth its venality, he would diſplay his own integrity and diſintereſtedneſs. He has ſomewhere in his minutes, with his uſual air of ſuperiority and ſelf-opinion, paid a compliment to his principles as different from ours; having from nothing acquired a more than miniſterial fortune.—Where is the ſelf-denial if he wiſhes to add no more to an eſtate ſwelled already beyond the bounds of his moſt ſanguine expectation? Be his real deſires what they will, money is not the object he would ſeem to luſt for longer; he poſſeſſes already more than he can enjoy: but his preſent purſuits are unlimited powers and titles to feed the vanity of an inſatiable ambition. To this idol does he not ſeem to ſacrifice any one who will not implicitly bow the knee? and, well verſed in every art of attack, does he ſpare any method to attack thoſe he cannot overawe?

He has imbibed his notions from his military way of life; and, as if ſtill amongſt his inferior officers, where none dared to contradict, he iſſues forth his commands to the Board with the ſame imperious authority and expects implicit obedience.

As to his lordſhip's long declaration to prove the expediency of the military power he would fain be inveſted with, I ſhall only ſay, that my ſenti-

* The *red paper*. This is the title which the natives give to *Omichund*'s treaty, as it was written on red paper.

ments

ments differ very widely from his, and add this one remark, that as in *Calcutta* there are civil courts of juſtice for the trial of natives by their own laws, ſuch as they are ſubject to under the Nabob's government, there is no occaſion for the Governor to aſſume ſo unlimited a power over the perſons and properties of every man reſiding within the limits of our charter; much leſs, when a gentleman intitled to ſome conſideration from his ſtation in the ſervice, was likely to be injured by informations intended to be drawn from a man under ſuch unconſtitutional confinement.

In vindication of ſuch a ſtep, he quotes precedents of a number of men confined by his predeceſſors. Some of theſe inſtances were men who had rendered themſelves obnoxious by a ſuſpicion of treaſonable practices, and might be juſtified as a particular offence againſt the Company's government, but the other precedents are of a nature not to be followed, rather than imitated. But he can produce no inſtance of a man confined under a military guard for ſo long a time together, and then brought as an evidence againſt a member of the Board, or any *Britiſh* ſubject. It is abſurd to ſay, that *Ramnaut* is not a ſubject of our government, his being in *Calcutta* ſome months, intitled him to the protection of our laws, rendered uſeleſs by the exerciſe of ſuch arbitrary power. But Lord *Clive*, at the ſame time that he denies *Ramnaut* to be a ſubject of the *Engliſh* government in words, has certainly in fact conſidered him as ſuch, for he had tried and condemned him in *Calcutta*, where to this hour he is under military confinement. Beſides, Lord *Clive*, being a *Britiſh* ſubject, can in no ſhape be admitted to exerciſe an authority, or inflict any puniſhment that the laws of his country deem illegal. It was this abuſe of power and the violent and unfair means uſed to injure my character, that Mr. *Leyceſter* and I oppoſed, not an examination into the conduct of an offender, whom we wanted to ſcreen from juſtice, as Lord *Clive* injuriouſly intimates. If, on a fair trial, he had been found guilty, none would have been more ready to condemn him than ourſelves.

Lord *Clive*, by pluming himſelf on his age and experience in the ſervice, would ſeem to throw a ſarcaſtic reflection on our youth, and treats what we have advanced in ſupport of our opinion, as pompous, romantic, and declamatory. This naturally calls to memory a reflection of the ſame nature thrown out againſt Mr. *Pitt*, in the Houſe of Commons, by a gentleman who oppoſed him: and Mr. *Pitt*'s reply I think à propos to the preſent occaſion.

The ill language Lord *Clive* has introduced to the board, in his arguments with me, ſurprizes me no longer, as he has dealt freely with the ſettlement collectively. And to give credit to Lord *Clive*'s declarations, any man muſt ſuppoſe *Calcutta* a ſink of licentiouſneſs and corruption, thus ſetting up himſelf as a pattern and ſtandard of integrity and morality. But ſuch aſſertions ought to be proved by facts. And I call upon his lordſhip to point out a ſingle act of generoſity, or goodneſs of heart, he has performed ſince his return to this ſettlement: and then I will freely aſcribe to him his due merit.

February 8th, 1766. (Signed) GEORGE GRAY.

To

To the Right Honourable Lord *Clive*, President and Governor, &c. Council at *Fort-William*.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

I beg leave to trouble you with a few words in anſwer to a minute delivered in by General *Carnac*, in reply to Mr. *Leycester*'s, and my addreſs to the Honourable Court of Directors. It is true, that during the Government of Mr. *Vanſittart* and Mr. *Spencer*, General *Carnac* could never be taxed with paying implicit obedience to their will, or ſcarce indeed any obedience at all. Yet towards the firſt of theſe gentlemen, the world will impute this want of obedience to perſonal pique and diſlike, ſo ſtrongly painted forth in the general's * letters concerning Mr. *Vanſittart*, after that gentleman had left *Bengal*; which may perhaps originally have ſprung from diſappointed ambition, able to break the ſtrongeſt ties of friendſhip. The General's connections with Lord *Clive*, whoſe power raiſed, and whoſe favour ſtill ſupports him, are ſuch, that a ſtrange change in his ſentiments may be very naturally inferred. I leave it to the world to determine whether ſuch a change has taken place or not. General *Carnac* can produce no one inſtance whatever, where Mr. *Leycester*, or myſelf have ever ſacrificed the Company's intereſt for our own advantage. The bargains he therefore, in imagination, ſets down to our accounts, appear rather in a ridiculous than a ſerious light, and prove only the fertility of his invention. He has acknowledged *Bulwantſing*'s preſent. Will he aver he never received any preſents from *Beny Bahadre* and other people? or will he declare the amount he has received from theſe, as well as from the Nabob, *Meer Jaffier*? and has he not received many of theſe ſince he knew of the covenants? Why then does he pretend to a ſhare of diſintereſtedneſs and ſelf-denial that every one muſt be convinced he has not? If he condemns in us the receiving of preſents, by which he has benefited in a more ample manner by far than we have done, he muſt condemn himſelf, and acknowledge himſelf guilty of a crime he would fix on us.

The General's fortune cannot well be aſcertained whilſt Lord *Clive* remains in *India*. But there is great reaſon to believe it is double either what Mr. *Leycester* or I am poſſeſſed of, though both of us have been much longer in the ſervice, and have carried on a very conſiderable trade, from whence by much the major parts of our fortunes have been acquired. All General *Carnac*'s fortune has been ſuddenly got: nor will he, or Lord *Clive*, declare they have ever profited by trade hitherto. Whatever they are poſſeſſed of has come in to them as preſents, plunder, or ſuch means as Lord *Clive* has declared, in a military capacity, "*Vivitur ex rapto.*"

As to the General's reaſons for delaying to ſign his covenants, his evaſion is particularly ingenious, and worthy remark. The ceremony, as he calls it, of executing them was unneceſſary with him, who was ſo well convinced of his own uprightneſs: but it was a ceremony the Company directed, and which had been enforced with the whole ſervice, in order to ſatisfy our employers. As to their date, he exerted his authority to make the officers

* See Num. XXIII. Page 157.

execute

execute deeds to the Company, which he, who ought to have ſet the example, then refuſed, and now declares improper. The General would have people to conceive, that he conſidered the covenants as a mere matter of ceremony, though it is certain that he thought the prior date of ſo much conſequence to himſelf, that he deſired the Secretary to prepare a ſecond ſet of covenants for him, leaving the date in blank for himſelf to fill up at his pleaſure: and they might to this day have remained blank, had it not been for the particular call made upon him. This is a notorious inſtance of Lord *Clive*'s remiſſneſs in ſome points that relate to his friends, as well as of the General's attention to his own intereſt; for had he differed in ſentiment from Lord *Clive*, he would have been obliged to execute his covenants ſome months ago, before he received the preſent of two lacks of rupees from the King: whereas, by the contrivance of poſt-dating his covenants, as low as the 9th *November* laſt, and having received the money, and procured bonds in his own name for the amount prior to that date, he ſecures the amount to himſelf, although he ſeems to refer it to the determination of the Court of Directors.

I have the honour to be, with reſpect,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

Ship *Grenville*,
the 16th *Feb.* 1766. (Signed) GEORGE GRAY.

P. S. The minute produced, attributed to Mr. *Sykes*, as a reply to what relates to him in Mr. *Leyceſter*'s addreſs and mine, to the Court of Directors, is full of abuſe, uttered in the moſt mean and ludicrous terms. I did not believe that gentleman capable of uſhering in ſuch ſentiments: and every body who knows Mr. *Sykes* will be convinced his pen is incapable of expreſſing ſuch a libel. I conſider him as an inſtrument, a trumpet through which a voice, not his own, is ſounded. It is not, therefore, to Mr. *Sykes* I give this anſwer, but to his familiar, a proficient in the talent of detraction. Infamous means have been uſed, for months paſt, to vilify my character, which had before ſtood unimpeached, after ten years ſervice to my employers; and which, in ſpite of malevolence, I have no doubt of preſerving in the opinion of all candid men. Mr. *Leyceſter*'s character is too well eſtabliſhed to ſuffer either from his unjuſt ſuſpenſion, or from any malicious inſinuations Mr. *Sykes* can throw out againſt him. Preſents, not received as the price of any ſervices, have never been deemed diſhonourable: and the imputation Mr. *Sykes* would willingly fix on us, muſt be equally applicable to Lord *Clive*, General *Carnac*, or any others who have ever received them. Such a baſe ſtatement of facts, ſo ill ſupported, ſcarce merits any reply, but to point out the baſe principles which actuate a mind ſo full of venom and malevolence.

I am aſhamed to be under the neceſſity of putting myſelf on a level with the author of this production, more calculated for the meridian of *Billingſgate*, or a *Grub-ſtreet* garret, than the records of the honourable board. We are obliged to take men as we find them; and I hope the neceſſity of the caſe will be my apology for entering this ſhort anſwer to the inſignificant piece.

(Signed) GEORGE GRAY.

NUM. XVII.

COPY of a Letter from Lord Clive *to the Court of* East India *Directors. Dated,* Calcutta, *the* 20*th* March, 1766.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors, *&c. &c. &c.*

GENTLEMEN,

PAR. I. I HAVE the honour to ſend you incloſed abſtracts of all your civil and military expences upon this eſtabliſhment, from the 1ſt *January*, 1765, to the 1ſt *January*, 1766; and likewiſe the particulars of your military expences for one month. The civil diſburſements for one or two months at ſome of the diſtant factories were wanting, but I have computed them upon an average, and the difference cannot be material. Theſe accounts will bear teſtimony to the great inattention, negligence, and extravagancy, which have prevailed in both departments; and convince you, that I have not exaggerated *the abandoned ſtate of this ſettlement*. Your orders for ſending to you annually the ſtate of your military expences have, I find, been often repeated in vain; and when accounts, amounting to ſuch large ſums, are kept ſo long behind-hand, the detection of frauds is impoſſible.

II. It gives me pain, though it be my duty, ſo often to repeat the obſervation, that your ſervice in general, for want of capacity or attention in ſome, and want of principle in others, has, for theſe two or three years paſt, been nothing but a ſcene of fraud and confuſion. I feel, however, a conſcious ſatisfaction within myſelf, that I ſhall ſee your affairs upon ſuch a footing before I leave this country, that it will only depend upon yourſelves, whether the Company ſhall or ſhall not (excuſe my vanity upon the occaſion) enjoy THE FRUIT OF MY LABOURS.

III. Permit me to ſuggeſt, that it is become abſolutely neceſſary you ſhould ſend from *England* five or ſix gentlemen, of unqueſtionable abilities and good conſtitutions, qualified for the Secretary's and Accomptant's offices. Without ſuch aſſiſtance, it is evident that your civil branches cannot long continue in order; nor will your accounts, by which only you can diſcover frauds, abuſes, and neglects, be regularly tranſmitted.

IV. Agreeably to the ſixth paragraph of my letter of the 1ſt *February*, a committee is now formed for examining into the ſtate of every department, and for eſtabliſhing what is much wanted, method, as well as integrity and œconomy, in each. And I flatter myſelf you will ſoon be convinced of the utility of the inquiries now on foot; as no other means can ſo effectually obtain for you a true ſtatement of your affairs here, or ſo clearly aſcertain the points which require reformation.

V. In my former letters, I, with great truth as well as freedom, obſerved to you, that moſt of your ſervants in *Bengal* were ſo young, ſo extravagant, and

and had imbibed notions ſo contrary to their own honour and your intereſt, that it was incumbent upon you to ſeek for aſſiſtance elſewhere. Your principal ſervants ſhould always be men of ſenſe, years, and experience; for if we reflect but for a moment on the extenſiveneſs of your concerns, revenues amounting to millions ſterling, a trade which may be carried on to the amount of ſeventy lacks of rupees, and DOMINIONS TO GOVERN which exceed *Great Britain* in extent and number of ſubjects, it is impoſſible to conceive how ſuch a government can long exiſt under the management of boys, whoſe principles are corrupted by example, and the glare of wealth, the moment they land. I have recommended to you the ſending out five or ſix gentlemen qualified for the Secretary's and Accomptant's offices. If you ſhould think proper to adopt ſuch a plan, you will undoubtedly conſider, whether you will allow thoſe gentlemen a certain rank, and to riſe in your ſervice, or fix them to a certain rank and certain poſts, granting them the full privilege of trade. Their emoluments will in either caſe reward their ſervices in five or ſix years: and indeed they will honeſtly deſerve an independency, if they carry on the accounts and buſineſs of this ſettlement with method and integrity.

VI. That you may be fully convinced of the utility and neceſſity of regulating every department, I muſt requeſt you will ſuſpend your judgment (among many other reaſons for the neceſſity of the late meaſure) until we are enabled to lay before you an abſtract of the expences of the preſent year, that you may examine into the particulars, and compare them with thoſe now ſent you, for the year paſt.

VII. You will be pleaſed to remark, that I have made a minute in conſultation, deſiring to have abſtracts of all your expences, civil and military, tranſmitted to me by the 15th of every month, that I may from thence form a general abſtract of the whole, to be entered monthly on the face of the conſultations, in purſuance of my idea in the ſeventh paragraph of my laſt letter. But as theſe entries would be very voluminous, and add greatly to the buſineſs of the Secretary's office, already too extenſive, I propoſe only to enter the ſum total of every department on the face of the conſultations, and enter the abſtracts in a ſeparate book, which ſhall be laid before the board monthly, and tranſmitted to you when the year's accounts are completed. This book will ſhew you the monthly and yearly account of every head.

VIII. The *Engliſh Eaſt India* Company are here ſo ſituated, that they cannot be leſs than they now are, without ceaſing to be at all: and it is equally certain, that their preſent greatneſs will add to the power and influence of their ſervants, already too extenſive. To check and confine the unbounded deſigns of thoſe whoſe ambition is conſtantly thwarting the intereſt of their employers, has been my daily labour: and although I have as yet done but little towards that general reformation, without which I am convinced the Company cannot long have a being in *Bengal*, yet I have done ſufficient greatly to injure my conſtitution, and to obtain the odium of all your ſervants, excepting the very few whoſe ideas of the public good correſpond with mine. Perquiſites and privileges to the utmoſt extent, and manifeſtly to the great detriment of your ſervice, have been ſo long tolerated, that every attempt towards reducing your immenſe expences, where private intereſt is concerned, is conſidered as

the greateſt hardſhip; and preſcription is every where a plea againſt reaſon and juſtice. In ſhort, ſupported though I am with a Council and a Committee, ſtrenuous in the reſolution to reform abuſes, I ſhall only be able to leave things upon a plan of amendment; and it muſt finally reſt with yourſelves to give permanency and ſtability to *Bengal*, by the moſt vigorous efforts of your power. The inſight and knowledge I am endeavouring to acquire in every department will, I hope, enable me to lay before you materials ſufficient to work upon, and completely to effect the great purpoſes of our wiſh.

IX. As this may probably be the laſt time of my troubling you by letter with my ideas of your affairs, not only the Company's intereſt but my own honour calls upon me to repreſent to you, that if you do not unite to a man in the exertion of your utmoſt abilities, and in the purſuit of the moſt reſolute and determined meaſures, you will no longer be maſters, or have the leaſt authority over your ſervants. *Bengal* muſt inevitably, in the ſpace of two or three years, ſink under it's own weight of corruption and extravagance.

I have the honour to be,
With the greateſt reſpect,
GENTLEMEN,
Your moſt obedient, and
moſt humble ſervant,
(Signed) CLIVE.

Calcutta,
20th *March*, 1766.

NUM. XVIII.

EXTRACT of a Letter from the Court of East India *Directors to the Preſident and Council of* Fort-William *in* Bengal. *Dated the 17th* May, 1766, *prohibiting their drawing of bills.*

PAR. LI. YOU are to grant no bills on us, or to receive any money into our treaſury for certificates, unleſs you ſhall be actually in want of caſh for carrying on our inveſtment, or to defray the civil and military expences of the preſidency, or for anſwering draughts from *Bombay*, or any other of our ſettlements, or to ſend thither, or to *China*, or for ſuch-like occaſions; and in all or any of theſe caſes, no more money muſt be received than is abſolutely wanted for ſuch purpoſes; nor muſt the amount of bills and certificates, by each ſhip, exceed one-fifth part of the ſum total of ſuch ſhip's invoice of goods, laden on board at the ſettlement from which it receives it's diſpatches for *England*.

PAR. LII. We hereby direct, that the exchange from *Bengal*, after theſe orders come to hand, be lowered to two ſhillings and threepence for a current rupee.

rupee to our ſervants, civil and military; and to all others, to two ſhillings and one penny only, for a current rupee.

PAR. LIII. You are to receive no money, nor grant bills to any perſons not under covenants with us, unleſs immediately wanted for the purpoſes abovementioned.

Your loving friends,

(Signed)

J. PARDOE,
JOS. DU PRE,
THO. SAUNDERS,
F. W. BARRINGTON,
GEORGE CUMING,
JOHN HARRISON,
J. PURLING,
JOHN ROBERTS,
PETER DU CANE Jun.
GEORGE WOMBWELL,
ROBERT JONES,
THOMAS ROUS,
JOHN STEPHENSON,
CHARLES CUTTS,
HENRY SAVAGE,
CHRIST. BARON,
FRED. PIGOU.
EDW. WHEELER,
LUKE SCRAFTON,
E. H. CRUTTENDEN,
CHARLES CHAMBERS,
GEORGE DUDLEY.

London, 17th May, 1766.

NUM. XIX.

COPY of a Letter from Mr. Alexander Campbell, *Mint and Aſſay-Maſter at* Calcutta, *to the Preſident and Council; containing a Plan for a new Gold Coinage. Recorded on Conſultation, the* 2*d* June, 1766.

Fort William, the 2d June, 1766.

At a Conſultation, preſent,

William Brightwell Sumner, Eſq; Preſident,
Randolph Marriott,
Hugh Watts,
Claud Ruſſell,
William Alderſey,
Thomas Kelſall, and
Charles Ffloyer, Eſquires.

Lord *Clive* and General *Carnac* abſent, up the Country.
Mr. *Verelſt* indiſpoſed.

To *William Brightwell Sumner*, Eſq; *&c.* Council at *Fort William.*

GENTLEMEN,

IN obedience to your commands, I have now the honour to lay before you the Plan adopted by the Select Committee, and approved by the Miniſters, for eſtabliſhing a gold currency, to obviate the ſcarcity of money, which ſo large an annual exportation of bullion to *China* muſt neceſſarily produce.

The ſcheme hath already been intimated to the Honourable the Court of Directors, not as an effectual remedy, but a palliative that will obſtruct the progreſs of the evil, until a more radical cure be diſcovered.

To give ſuch encouragement to the importation of foreign gold, and advantages to the natives who hoard up and ſecrete this metal, as might induce them to apply their uſeleſs treaſures to the public benefit, were the great objects of the Committee. The difficulty lay in fixing upon ſuch a rate of exchange, as ſhould anſwer the intention of bringing gold to the treaſury, without reducing ſilver below that natural value which it bears in moſt kingdoms in *Europe*. Since this circumſtance might be productive of inconvenience at home, gold being merely a merchandize in *Bengal*, and the quantity of it already contained in the country very uncertain, it was thought proper to make the mean rate of exchange in *Europe* the principle upon which the following regulations for a gold currency are calculated:

I. That a gold mohur ſhall be ſtruck, bearing the ſame impreſſion with the preſent *Murſhedabad* ſicca, and that this mohur ſhall alſo be iſſued in the ſubdiviſion of halves, quarters, and eighths.

II. That the new coins ſhall be of the fineneſs of twenty carrats, or it ſhall contain one-ſixth of an alloy, which reduces it to rupees 16. 9. 4. *per cent.* below the value of fine gold; to 13. 7. 7. below the mean fineneſs of the ſicca and *Dehly* mohurs; and to 8. 2. $2\frac{1}{3}$. beneath the ſtandard of the preſent *Arcot* gold mohur.

The reaſons for fixing upon this ſtandard are, that it is deemed the moſt convenient for allowing the propoſed encouragement to the merchants and the proprietors of gold; and likewiſe for avoiding the great delay and expence of refining in a country where the proceſs is not underſtood, and the materials for conducting it are obtained with difficulty.

III. That the gold mohur ſhall be increaſed from fifteen annas, the preſent actual weight of the *Arcot*, to ſixteen annas, the better to avoid the inconveniences of fractional numbers in the ſubdiviſional parts, and the exchange.

IV. That the par of exchange between this gold mohur and the ſilver ſicca rupee ſhall, for the preſent, be eſtimated at the rate of fourteen to one, reckoning upon the intrinſic value of either. Thus a gold mohur, weighing ſixteen annas, ſhall be deemed equivalent to fourteen ſicca rupees.

You will perceive, gentlemen, that a diſcount of one in fifteen, or 6. 10. 8. *per cent.* is now made on the exchange propoſed by the Committee, in order to obviate the very reaſonable objection which the board made to the exorbitant profits aſſigned to the merchants and proprietors.

V. That the ſilver ſicca rupee ſhall not be leſs than the ſtandard 11 oz. 15 dwts. or 13 dwts. better than *Engliſh* ſtandard, whence will ariſe

A profit to the merchant of gold, -	3 *per cent.*
A batta on the gold mohur, - -	3 *per cent.*
A charge for coinage and duties, -	2 *per cent.*
	8 *per cent.*

Which

Which increaſed value is calculated from the generally received exchange of gold and ſilver, and not upon the market-price of gold, which fluctuates daily.

VI. That all payments, whether of a public or a private nature, ſhall be made at the eſtabliſhed batta: and that every attempt to create an artificial batta, or exchange, ſhall be rigorouſly puniſhed.

VII. That a tender of payment, either in public or private, ſhall in future be equally valid in gold and in ſilver, and that a refuſal of the eſtabliſhed gold currency ſhall incur ſuch puniſhment as this board may think proper to inflict.

VIII. That public notice ſhall be given to all the zemindars, collectors of the revenues, and others, that the collections may be made indiſcriminately in gold and in ſilver, the former to be received at the mint and treaſury, at the rate propoſed in the 2d article; that is, the ſicca and *Dehly* mohurs to be recoined with an alloy of 13. 7. 7. *per cent.* and the *Arcot* mohur with an alloy of 8. 2. $2\frac{1}{3}$. which will produce agreeably to the principle of exchange laid down, the advantage propoſed in article the fifth.

Theſe, gentlemen, are the regulations propoſed by the Right Honourable the Preſident and the members of the Select Committee: upon which I ſhall beg permiſſion to offer the following remarks.

The eſtabliſhing a gold currency in the country appears to me the only practicable method of aboliſhing that pernicious ſyſtem of reducing the batta on ſicca rupees annually. There being now a fixt ſtandard of value for ſilver, that metal muſt in time neceſſarily ſettle at that preciſe point which determines the proportion it bears to gold: neither will the ſcarcity of any ſpecies of rupees affect the batta, ſince the gold currency will always afford the means of payment without loſs by the exchange. The batta of the mohur being invariable, will render that of the ſilver invariable alſo: or elſe the principle of exchange will be deſtroyed, and of conſequence the profit to the merchant will become precarious. This effect, I think, muſt neceſſarily flow from the full eſtabliſhment of a gold currency. And were there no other advantage attending it than the reducing to a fixt determinate value, the great variety of coins, with which buſineſs is diſtracted in this country, that alone would be well worth the experiment.

It will be abſolutely neceſſary that the utmoſt care be taken to prevent any debaſement of the firſt ſtandard of the gold mohur, which is already rated ſo high in the exchange.——I ſhould myſelf apprehend that a fraud of ſuch dangerous tendency to public credit ſhould be puniſhed with death; and as the *Engliſh* laws will not authorize ſo rigorous a puniſhment, except for adulteration of the current coin of *Great Britain*, that the laws of the country ſhould take place.—Your reſolution on this head ſhould be publiſhed in the mint at *Murſhedabad*: and, as a further check on the coiners, the reſident might be required occaſionally to ſend down ſpecimens of the money to be aſſayed in *Calcutta*.

I ſhould likewiſe imagine that ſevere penalties ſhould be annexed to the ſecreting, defacing, clipping, or melting down the new coinage; and that the

the ſame, together with the puniſhment to be inflicted on every attempt to vary the batta, or obſtruct the currency, ſhould be promulgated in every diſtrict of the Nabob's dominions.

I have the honour to be,
GENTLEMEN,
Your moſt obedient,
and moſt humble ſervant,
(Signed) ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, M.M.

Fort William,
2d June, 1766.

NUM. XX.

COPY of the Proceedings of a Bench of Juſtices, held at Calcutta *on the 8th of* September, 1766, *relative to Lord* Clive's *impriſonment of two* Britiſh *Subjects, named* Vernon Duffield *and* Francis Robertſon.

Fort William, the 8th September, 1766.

At a Bench of Juſtices, preſent,

Harry Verelſt,
Randolph Marriott,
Hugh Watts,
Claud Ruſſell,
William Alderſey,
Thomas Kelſall, and
Charles Ffloyer, Eſquires.

MR. RUSSELL, the acting juſtice, acquaints the bench, that he has deſired them to aſſemble on occaſion of complaints preferred to him againſt the Right Honourable Lord *Clive*, by Meſſrs. *Vernon Duffield* and *Francis Robertſon*. Whereupon the following letters, ſetting forth the complaints of Meſſrs. *Duffield* and *Robertſon* were read:

To *Claud Ruſſell*, Eſq; acting Juſtice of the Peace for the Town of *Calcutta*.

SIR,

Yeſterday in the afternoon Lord *Clive* ſent an officer with a party of ſea-poys, and ſurrounded my houſe, planted ſentries at my doors and windows (for what reaſon I cannot tell) and gave the ſtricteſt orders not to ſuffer either victuals or drink of any kind to be admitted to me, nor any perſon or perſons to come into my houſe or go out of it, which entirely deprives me of the company

company of my wife and friends; I am alſo ſo very cloſe confined, that I am not even allowed to go to the neceſſary.——My preſent condition is now ſuch, that I am almoſt ſtarving; and having committed no crime, nor being a criminal to deſerve this unlawful uſage, being a ſubject of his Majeſty of *Great Britain*, I apply to you as Juſtice of the peace for your protection from ſuch illegal, arbitrary, and unwarrantable proceedings againſt the right and liberty of a free-born *Engliſhman*.

I am, SIR,
Your moſt obedient,
and moſt humble ſervant,
Calcutta, (Signed) VERNON DUFFIELD.
5th Sept. 1766.

To *Claud Ruſſell*, Eſq; one of his Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace for the Town of *Calcutta*.

SIR,

I wrote you yeſterday evening, ſetting forth my grievances, how unſufferable and unlawful they were, and applied to you, as Juſtice of the peace, for redreſs; but have not had the pleaſure of an anſwer, nor received the leaſt protection from you.

I not only bear the hardſhips of being deprived of any victuals or drink, *&c.* but alſo that of falſe impriſonment. I therefore muſt inſiſt on your protection againſt ſuch arbitrary treatment of a ſubject of his Majeſty of *Great Britain*.

I am, SIR,
Your moſt obedient ſervant,
Calcutta, (Signed) VERNON DUFFIELD.
6th Sept. 1766.

To *Claud Ruſſell*, Eſq; acting Juſtice of Peace for the Town of *Calcutta*.

SIR,

I addreſſed myſelf to you the 4th and 5th inſtant, ſetting forth my grievances, which are now riſen to ſuch a height, that I am almoſt ſtarving. Laſt night my windows were ordered to be ſhut, to prevent both light and air coming to me. In this condition I cannot ſurvive many hours, therefore it requires your immediate redreſs againſt ſuch illegal, oppreſſive, arbitrary and unwarrantable proceedings of the Governor, Lord *Clive*.

I am, SIR,
Calcutta, Your moſt obedient ſervant,
7th September, 1766. (Signed) VERNON DUFFIELD.

P. S. Let me requeſt the favour of your anſwer.

To his Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace at *Fort William*.

It muſt already be very well known to every one of you, that the Right Honourable the Preſident and Council have been pleaſed to order my return to *England*, on board the *Lord Camden*, Captain *Nathaniel Smith*, commander, which is to ſail in a few days. But I am much miſtaken, if this way of

condemning a man unheard, and without bringing, or I may ſay, being able to bring a ſingle charge againſt him, has ever before been heard of in any ſettlement dependent on the Crown of *England*, and ſubject to her laws; or in any quarter of the globe, where law, juſtice, or humanity were not trodden on by tyranny and oppreſſion.

Againſt the above arbitrary and illegal orders I proteſted, giving many ſubſtantial reaſons why I could not comply; and the conſequence was, that on the 4th inſtant, between ten and eleven o'clock in the morning, my houſe was beſet with a military force, and ſentinels were immediately poſted, with fixed bayonets; two at the gateway, in front of the houſe, one backwards, one at the hall-door, and two at the door of my bed-chamber, wherein I am cooped up a cloſe priſoner; my guards having orders, from the officer commanding, and he from Lord *Clive*, not to permit any perſon to viſit, nor ſuffer any proviſions to paſs to me.

In my proteſt, I objected want of health; and three ſurgeons, or phyſicians, ſent by the Honourable the Preſident and Council to examine into the ſtate of my conſtitution, gave it as their opinion that my complaints ſprung in a good meaſure from the bad air of *Calcutta*. Yet his lordſhip, as if he had taken the hint, has confined me ſo ſtreightly, that this air, very bad in itſelf, now putrid through want of circulation, muſt either kill me immediately, throw me into a conſumption, or leave the ſeeds of ſome future diſorder behind.

My ſircars and ſome of my ſervants, taking the advantage of my confinement, have fled, robbing me, I ſuppoſe, as opportunity ſerved.

That nothing may be wanting to the completion of my diſtreſs, I am denied even a candle, ſo that five or ſix painful hours are ſpent every night in the dark. Such is my miſery juſt now, which, nevertheleſs, it ſeems, Lord *Clive* hath reſolved to increaſe till nothing be left to add, declaring that though he will not break open my doors, yet he will ſtarve me out of my room.

Good God! what have I done, that his lordſhip ſhould labour thus to take away my life, or effect my ruin? I know not how I could have ſtirred up malice ſo inveterate againſt me; for he that inquires into my character will find, that no man has laboured more, very few one tenth ſo much, to ſerve the Company. But this is from my purpoſe.

Gentlemen, I call upon you, my laſt reſource, for redreſs, or aſſiſtance, if this ſettlement hath not, in place of a civil and eſtabliſhed, been changed to a military and deſpotic government, and that the laws of *England* are not become the contempt of thoſe in power at *Fort William*. I demand the privileges due to me, to be tried by thoſe laws, and freed from the cruel hand of oppreſſion. Let my accuſers ſtand forth, and my charge be produced. I am ready to anſwer, and, with God's aſſiſtance, able to confute whatever my enemies (who I have reaſon to believe are very few) can bring againſt me.

I am, with reſpect, GENTLEMEN,
Your very humble and obedient ſervant,
Calcutta, *8th Sept.* 1766. (Signed) FRANCIS ROBERTSON.

THE

THE JUSTICES, as members of the Board, *from whence Lord* Clive *derives his authority*, being acquainted with the neceſſity there was for obſerving ſuch a conduct towards Meſſrs. *Duffield* and *Robertſon*, ARE UNANIMOUSLY OF OPINION, that, even admitting it to be an oppreſſion, by the act of the 27th of *George* the IId. ſection 13th *, for puniſhing mutiny and deſertion, all grievances and oppreſſions committed by the Preſident and Council appear to be not cognizable by any civil authority in *India*; and that they therefore cannot interpoſe.

Reſolved, That the clerk do acquaint Meſſrs. *Duffield* and *Robertſon* with the reſult of theſe deliberations: and make known to them, at the ſame time, that the guards about their houſes are not placed there to prevent them from coming forth, as they have ſet forth in the above letters.

(Signed) H. VERELST.
RANDOLPH MARRIOTT.
HUGH WATTS.
CLAUD RUSSELL.
WILL. ALDERSEY.
THO. KELSALL.
CHARLES FFLOYER.

* The 13th ſection above referred to, is as follows:

" And be it further enacted by the authority aforeſaid, That if any of the ſaid united " Company's Preſidents or Council, at their reſpective principal ſettlements, or any of " them, or their Governor and Council at the ſaid iſland of *Saint Helena*, ſhall after the " ſaid twenty-fifth day of *March*, one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-four, be guilty of " oppreſſing any of his Majeſty's ſubjects beyond the ſeas, within their reſpective juriſdictions " or commands, or ſhall be guilty of any other crime or offence contrary to the laws of that " part of *Great Britain* called *England*, or in force within their reſpective juriſdictions or " commands, ſuch oppreſſion, crimes, and offences, may be inquired of, heard, and de- " termined in his Majeſty's court of King's Bench, within that part of *Great Britain* called " *England*; or before ſuch commiſſioners, and in ſuch county of that part of *Great Britain* " called *England*, as ſhall be aſſigned by his Majeſty's commiſſion, and by good and lawful " men of the ſame county; and ſuch puniſhment ſhall be inflicted on ſuch offenders, as are " uſually inflicted for offences of the like nature committed in that part of *Great Britain* " called *England*."

NUM. XXI.

COPY of the Proceedings of the Select Committee at Calcutta, *the 22d* October 1766, *relative to the Trade, Coinage, and other Matters.*

Fort William, the 22d October 1766.

At a Select Committee, preſent,
The Right Honourable Lord *Clive*, Preſident,
Brigadier General *Carnac*, and
Harry Verelſt, Eſq;

MR. *Robert Hunter*, ſurgeon of the 3d brigade, having, by his own miſconduct, incurred diſmiſſion from the ſervice:

Ordered, That the Secretary ſhall write to Mr. *Lawrell*, Secretary to the Committee of Trade, directing, That Mr. *Hunter*'s name may be ſtruck out from the liſt of proprietors in the inland-trade, and ſuch advances as he hath made on his * ſhare of the capital ſtock, for the preſent year, immediately returned to him, or his attornies.

Agreed, We recommend to *Mahommed Reza Khawn*, that as ſoon as the more weighty collections of the year are finiſhed, he will enter upon the collection of ſuch outſtanding balances as are juſtly due to the revenue. But, that this buſineſs may be carried on at a time, and in the manner, leaſt detrimental to the collections of the ſtated revenue.

A liſt of exports and imports being now prepared and delivered in by the cuſtom-maſter, agreeable to our orders to that effect the 16th *September*;

Reſolved, That in future the trade of † ALL EUROPEANS WHATEVER be confined to the articles ſpecified in the annexed liſt, and conſidered as returns to, or exports from the preſidency and factories; and that no trade ſhall henceforward be carried on, from one *Aurung* to another, or from one part of the interior country to another, in any of the articles contained in this liſt; *or in any other articles whatſoever, on pain of confiſcation of the goods, to be appropriated at the* ‡ *pleaſure of this Committee*, and forfeiture of the Company's ſervice, or of free merchant's indentures, or licence of the Governor and Council; according as the treſpaſs ſhall be committed by perſons in, or out of the Company's ſervice.

* The Committee had made themſelves the uncontrouled arbiters of the property which every man had a right to, who laboured under their diſpleaſure, however unjuſtly.

† The powers which the Company derived from the charters originally granted them by the royal prerogative, are here extended by this omniform Committee, over all the ſubjects of *France*, *Portugal*, *Denmark*, and *Holland*, in *Bengal*.

‡ The ſeizure or confiſcation of men's property, without the legal deciſion of any judges or juries, was an object of no conſideration in the eyes of this all-powerful and enlightened Committee; who, as we have ſeen, in the preceding number, were not to be accountable in *India* for any oppreſſions there committed.

Agreed,

Agreed, This reſolution be laid before the board, in order that they may direct the proper advertiſements to be publiſhed: and that the regulation ſhall take place on the firſt day of *January* next.

Ordered, That a copy of the regulation be ſent to the cuſtom-maſter, with directions to ſtop all goods not ſpecified in the liſt; and that the liſt itſelf be annexed to the proceedings.

The mint-maſter having repreſented to us, that *ſome error has crept into the * tranſlation of the regulations* for a new gold coinage, which may miſlead the minters, and produce a debaſement of the currency;

Agreed, We write to Mr. *Middleton* the following letter:

SIR,

The mint-maſter having repreſented to us, that a miſtake has ariſen in the coinage of the new gold mohurs at *Murſhedabad*, owing to ſome error in the tranſlation of our regulations, we direct that you will immediately put a ſtop to the iſſuing of new mohurs, and that you will ſend down an exact account of the quantity of ſilver and copper alloy given to the hundred *Sicca* weight of *Dehly* gold mohurs, and likewiſe to the old *Patna* and *Arcot* mohurs received in your mint.

We further direct, that you will ſend down a † *Muſter*-mohur of the new coinage, from *Dehly*, *Patna*, and *Arcot*, old mohurs; and that you will ſuſpend all coinage until you can receive our further directions, it being of the utmoſt conſequence to maintain the credit of the Company's mints and coinage. You will pleaſe to be very particular in the marks of the new mohurs, ſpecifying from what gold each was made, and what was the alloy given; without which it is impoſſible for the mint-maſter to give directions with any kind of certainty or preciſion; and this is the reaſon why no exact report could be made of the money you ſent down for trial ſome weeks ago.

We are, Sir,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

(Signed) CLIVE.
JOHN CARNAC.
H. VERELST.

Fort William,
the 22d October 1766.

* As there was not a man in the Committee or the Council capable of judging whether the tranſlation into the *Bengal* language was rightly made, it is not extraordinary that AN ERROR SHOULD HAVE CREPT IN. From this one fact, in an article ſo material to a great commercial nation, as the gold coinage, let the reader judge of all the other LAWS made at *Calcutta* for the interior government of the *Bengal* provinces.

† A word very common in *India*, adopted from the *Portugueze amoſtra*, meaning a ſample or ſpecimen.

A Liſt of Goods imported by Shipping, or from the Aurungs, on which the Honourable Company receive Duties.

A. Almonds,
Aloes,
Allum,
Amber-beads.
B. Brimſtone,
Beads,
Benjamin,
Bulgar-hides,
Board-cloth in remnants,
Bird-ſhot,
Bunting,
Braziery,
Blankets,
Beciſh,
Bengal paper,
Blue,
Betel-nut,
Braſs wire,
Bottles,
Burgahs,
Baulats.
C. Cloves,
Cardamums,
China-root,
Cinnamon,
Cutch,
Camphire,
Cochineal,
Coffee,
Coir,
Cotton,
Chank,
Copper, Perſia and Japan,
Cowries,
Cordage,
Cutlery,
Canvas,
Coral,
Cabinet-ware,
China-ware,
Corks,
Caſſia,
Carpets,
Cummin-ſeed,
Chalk,
Coal,
Cow-tails,
Codalies or hoes,
Cotton-thread,
Chunam,
Crooked timber and knees,
Charcoal,
Cutlaſſes,
Chorata,
Coſſimber.
D. Dates,
Dammar.
E. Elephants-teeth.
F. Frankincenſe,
Fruits preſerved,
Furniture for ſale,
Fire-works, China.
G. Gold and ſilver lace,
Ditto——Ditto thread,
Gum,
Gaul,
Gogull,
Glaſs,
Glaſs-ware,
Gunnies,
Glue,
Grinding-ſtones,
Ginger, dry.
H. Hartall,
Hing or affafœtida,
Hinggarah,
Hoſiery,
Haberdaſhery,
Hats,
Hardware
Hurtiker.
I. Ink,

I. Ink, red,
Iron,
Ironmongery,
Jewellery,
Jaggary,
Jute-rope,
Jatmanſee.
K. Kiſhmiſh.
L. Leather,
Lead,
Lacquered-ware,
Line and twine,
Lack, ſtick, ſhell, and duſt,
Lump-lack,
Loduſs,
Lacings for cotts.
M. Munga-ſilk,
Mace,
Muſical inſtruments,
Medicines,
Morrocco leather,
Matts,
Mattee,
Monguerto,
Munga dooties.
N. Nutmegs.
O. Olives,
Ophium,
Oil.
P. Pitch,
Pepper,
Piſtachio-nuts,
Pictures and prints,
Pipes,
Perfumery,
Plate,
Paint,
Piece-goods of all ſorts,
Planks and timber.
Q. Quickſilver,
Queantora-ſeed.
R. Raw-ſilk,
Roſe-water,
Redwood,
Raiſins,
Red-lead,
Rattans,
Rhubarb,
Rice,
Rangtah.
S. Sandal-wood,
Senna,
Sugar-candy,
Sapan-wood,
Salt, Madraſs,
Steel,
Saffron,
Stationary,
Soap,
Silks of all kinds,
Slops,
Sadlery,
Shoes and boots,
Sarſaparilla,
Sheathing boards,
Ship-chandlery,
Snuffs,
Spices,
Sweat leaves,
Saltpetre,
Shells,
Stones,
Sugar,
Staves.
T. Toys and trinkets,
Tar,
Turpentine,
Tincal,
Tobacco,
Tin,
Tutenague,
Tea,
Toze,
Turmeric,
Targets.
V. Velvets,
Vermillion,
Verdegris.
W. White-lead,
Wax,
Wood-oil,
Wheat.

NUM. XXII.

COPY of the Proceedings of the Select Committee, relative to Gomaſtahs, Duſtucks, and Chokeys.

Fort William, 31ſt October 1766.

At a Select Committee, preſent,

The Right Honourable Lord *Clive*, Preſident,
Brigadier General *Carnac*,
Harry Verelſt, Eſq;

HAVING in our proceedings of the 19th day of *February* laſt *reſolved*, That no gomaſtahs employed by the Company's ſervants, or by other *Europeans* trading under the licences from the Company, ſhould in future interfere, directly, or indirectly, with affairs relative to the government; and alſo, that ſuch gomaſtahs ſhould, in all diſputes with the country people, apply for redreſs and juſtice to the chief of the neareſt ſubordinate, to the miniſters, to the Reſident at the *Durbar*, or to the Council, or Select Committee.

And it being now the intention of this Committee to fulfill, in the moſt effectual manner, the Honourable Company's inſtructions reſpecting the inland-trade, and to remove all cauſe of diſturbance and oppreſſion committed in the interior country, under ſanction of the *Engliſh* name.

Reſolved, That in future all gomaſtahs, whether employed on account of the Company or of individuals, ſhall ſtrictly refrain from interfering in any matters that may tend to interrupt the collections, or diſturb the buſineſs of the government.

That they ſhall ſcrupulouſly avoid taking cognizance of any diſputes or differences they may have with the country people, or aſſuming to themſelves any degree of judicial authority.

That in all ſuch points of difference and diſpute, whether with reſpect to trade or otherwiſe, they ſhall appeal, firſt, to the neareſt officer of the government; and in caſe of delay, or refuſal of redreſs from him, they ſhall then lay their complaint before *Mahommed Reza Khawn*, or the Reſident at the *Durbar*, or the Council, or Select Committee.

That whoever ſhall be found deviating from the evident meaning and intent of this reſolution (a copy of which will be ſent to the Reſident at the *Durbar*, and to *Mahommed Reza Khawn*) ſhall immediately forfeit their employments and the Company's protection; and likewiſe be ſubject to ſuch further puniſhment as the Council or Committee may think proper to inflict.

That, to prevent any interruption to trade, *Mahommed Reza Khawn* be deſired to iſſue orders to all officers of the government, to yield every poſſible encourage-

encouragement to licenced trade, and to the buſineſs of thoſe gomaſtahs who ſhall duly confine themſelves to the above reſtrictions.

Alſo, that *Mahommed Reza Khawn* be deſired to direct the officers of the government to call upon all gomaſtahs to regiſter their perwânahs, or licences of trade, and duſtucks, at the head *cutcherry* of the *aurung*, or diſtrict where they reſide; and likewiſe to order the public officers of each *aurung*, or diſtrict, to ſend him a regular monthly return of all perwânahs and duſtucks ſo regiſtered.

Notice having already been given, purſuant to our reſolution of the 19th *February* laſt, that all gomaſtahs ſhould apply to the Preſident for perwânahs, and the allowance of time for that purpoſe being now deemed fully ſufficient;

Agreed, That *Mahommed Reza Khawn* be deſired to iſſue orders to the officers of the government, to call upon the gomaſtahs in the different parts of the provinces, immediately to regiſter their perwânahs, and to ſend all perſons, who cannot produce a proper authority for their trade and reſidence, without delay to *Calcutta*.

And further, to prevent all frauds ariſing from counterfeit and forged duſtucks;

Agreed, The cuſtom-maſter be directed to make a monthly return to the Reſident at the *Durbar* of all duſtucks and perwânahs entered in his office, the ſame to be communicated to the miniſters; whereby they may be able to detect all impoſition and fraud, by comparing the monthly returns from the cuſtom-houſe with thoſe made from the *aurungs*, &c.

Mahommed Reza Khawn delivers into the Committee, a liſt of the *chokeys* for collecting the duties on trade, and alſo of the *military guards which he thinks neceſſary* at each.

The ſame being approved,

Ordered it to be entered after the proceedings; And,

Agreed, That *Mahommed Reza Khawn* be DESIRED to place the guards with all convenient expedition, and to get the neceſſary draughts made for that purpoſe from the pergunnah battalions.

(Signed) CLIVE.
JOHN CARNAC.
H. VERELST.

NUM. XXIII.

COPY of Proceedings at a Conſultation held at Calcutta *on the* 11*th* December 1766, *relative to a Letter from the Nabob* Seyf al Dowlah, *to Lord* Clive; *and a Letter from Mr.* Henry Vanſittart, *in Anſwer to one from General* Carnac *to the Board.*

Fort William, the 11*th December* 1766.

At a Conſultation, preſent,

Harry Verelſt, Eſq; Preſident,
John Carnac,
Claud Ruſſell,
Thomas Kelſall, and
Charles Floyer, Eſqrs.
Lord *Clive* indiſpoſed,
Mr. *Watts* abſent.

THE Preſident lays before the board, as entered hereafter, a letter from the Nabob * *Seyf al Dowlah*, to Lord *Clive*, purporting, that laſt year his late brother paid the ſum of ſix lacks of rupees into the Company's caſh upon bond; that three lacks have ſince been paid to him at *Murſhedabad*, and the balance of three lacks, which remain, he deſires may be added to the fund, eſtabliſhed by Lord *Clive*, for the maintenance and ſupport of the invalid military, in the Company's ſervice, and the families of ſuch as may loſe their lives in it.

Ordered, That an intereſt note be granted for the ſaid money, in the name of Lord *Clive*, in order that his lordſhip may appropriate the ſame to the purpoſe deſired. And the Preſident is requeſted to return our thanks to the Nabob, for ſo handſomely contributing to this charitable inſtitution.

Read a letter from Mr. *George Vanſittart*, dated the 10th inſtant, accompanied with one addreſſed to this board, which was ſent under cover to him by Mr. *Henry Vanſittart*; being an anſwer to a letter given in by General *Carnac*, ſoon after Mr. *Vanſittart*'s departure from this ſettlement, in *December* 1764.

Ordered, That Mr. *Vanſittart*'s letter be entered after the proceedings of this day; and that a copy thereof, atteſted by the Secretary, be delivered to General *Carnac*. But the board do not think themſelves authorized to grant a copy of the papers requeſted by Mr. *Vanſittart*, without the expreſs directions of our honourable maſters.

* The reader will pleaſe to recollect, that this Nabob was at this time an infant.

From

From the Nabob *Seyf al Dowlah* to the Right Honourable Lord *Clive*.

Received *October* 21*ſt* 1766.

Some time ago, my deceaſed brother, the Nabob, *Najim al Dowlah*, paid to your excellency the ſum of five lacks of rupees, agreeable to the commands of our late father, *Meer Mahommed Jaffier Khawn*, and we hear you have ſettled that ſum for the ſoldiers, *&c.* Laſt year my late brother paid ſix lacks of rupees into the Company's caſh, upon bond. Of this money, three lacks have been paid to me at *Murſhedabad*, and the balance of three lacks which remains, I give, as a fund, to be diſpoſed of in the ſame manner as the former five lacks; and requeſt your excellency to ſettle it after the ſame manner.

A true tranſlation.

Robert Maddiſon, *Perſian* tranſlator.

To the Right Honourable Lord *Clive*, Preſident and Governor, *&c.* Council at *Fort William*.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Herewith I have the honour to incloſe a letter addreſſed to your lordſhip, *&c.* which was ſent under cover to me, by Mr. *Henry Vanſittart*, with the following paragraph concerning it: "I ſend you incloſed an anſwer to Gene-
" ral *Carnac*'s letter of the 24th *December* 1764, which you will be ſo kind
" as to give in to the board. The Directors have ſeen it, and approve of
" its going in this channel."

I am, with the greateſt reſpect,
My Lord and Gentlemen,
Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,
(Signed) GEORGE VANSITTART.

Calcutta, 10*th December* 1766.

To the Honourable the Preſident, and the reſt of the Council of *Fort William*, in *Bengal*.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

I troubled you with a letter from *Madraſs*, dated the 30th *January* 1765, upon the occaſion of one which I heard had been delivered to your board, by Major *Carnac*, ſoon after my departure; but being then a ſtranger to the contents, I could only obſerve, it was not for Major *Carnac*'s credit to endeavour to take ſuch unfair advantage of my abſence. I have ſince received a copy of that letter; and, diſtant as I am from you, I am too deſirous of preſerving your good opinion, to ſuffer it to go unanſwered.

Copy of Major *Carnac*'s letter to the Preſident and Council of *Bengal*. Dated 24th *December* 1764.

I have received your favour of the 20th inſtant. Though I have hitherto declined the Company's employ, to which I have been ſo honourably reſtored; give me leave to aſſure you, it was not from a want of a due ſenſe of that honour, which was the more flattering as coming from the ſame court who, through the miſrepreſentation from hence, had been induced to diſmiſs me. But I could not, conſiſtently with my principles, act, while the chief management of affairs remained with the perſon to whoſe mal-adminiſtration ſo many of our countrymen had fallen the unfortunate victims, and by which the ſettlement has been brought to the brink of ruin. Nor could I be of uſe to my employers, while a gentleman preſided who was actuated by the moſt violent pique againſt me, in reſentment for the ſtrenuous oppoſion I had (though ineffectually) made to his pernicious meaſures. That obſtacle being now removed, I with much pleaſure reſume my ſtation; happy in the conviction, that I ſhall henceforward receive that juſtice which I heretofore in vain expected, in return for the moſt fervent zeal, and exertion of my utmoſt endeavours for the ſervice our my maſters. I will, agreeably to your deſire, gentlemen, get myſelf ready as faſt as poſſible, to proceed to take the command of the army in the Subah of *Illahabad*, and hope to be able to ſet out by the 10th of next month at fartheſt. In the mean time, let me requeſt your recommending to Major *Munro*, the ſeeing the produce of the captures diſtributed to the men, it being incumbent

THE ANSWER.

As Major *Carnac*'s letter conſiſts only of calumnies conceived in general terms, without ſo much as attempting to offer a reaſon, or an inſtance in ſupport of the moſt malicious aſperſions, of courſe, the arguments I ſhall produce, to expoſe his fallacy, injuſtice, and vanity, muſt likewiſe be general.——I might very well ſay, that the misfortunes which happened to us in *Bengal*, in 1763, were owing to the violent councils of that very man, who is pleaſed now to impute them to mal-adminiſtration on my part; that his calling the members of the Council from the ſubordinate ſettlements to a general aſſembly, and his intrigues to gain them to his party, were the immediate cauſes of the war, and that all his meaſures and his wiſhes tended to that end. But I leave the world to judge of this, and only mean here to ſhew, that after all thoſe misfortunes had happened, at a time when they were freſh in every man's mind, and every one was mourning a loſt relation or friend; at this time, I ſay, he declared a very good opinion of my adminiſtration himſelf, promoted and joined, with all the reſt of the Council then in *Calcutta*, in a requeſt that I would continue in the government; and not only ſigned, but in great part dictated the letter, dated the 19th *December* 1763; in which, after ſpeaking of the unſettled ſtate of the country, and the great care neceſſary for re-eſtabliſhing good order, they do me the honour to ſay, "From a conviction therefore, Sir, "of the material ſervice you can be "of, in forwarding ſo ſalutary a work, "and

cumbent upon him ſo to do; and without which, I ſhall be very unwilling to receive from him the charge of the forces, as I do not chuſe to be again a witneſs of the ill effects reſulting from demands of this nature being left unſatisfied.

" and wherein the well-being of the
" Company is ſo immediately con-
" cerned, we cannot but unnani-
" mouſly join in requeſting, that you
" will poſtpone your intention of re-
" turning to *Europe* this ſeaſon," &c.

Soon after the date of this letter, Major *Carnac* went to take the command of the army; although he declares now, that he could not, conſiſtently with his principles, act while I had the chief management of affairs. And during that command, he acted ſo conſiſtently with his principles, that our army lay entrenched, ſurrounded and inſulted, under the walls of *Patna*, until they loſt both their ſpirit and their diſcipline; while *Sujah al Dowlah*, at full liberty, poſſeſſed or ravaged all the *Bahar* province, and took up their winter quarters in the midſt of it. I could not approve of this conduct, and here lurks the reaſon why Major *Carnac* no longer acknowledges any merit in me, and loads me with reproaches, inſtead of praiſe. From the mouth of ſo partial and intereſted a judge, both are equal.——I certainly had no reaſon to be pleaſed with General *Carnac*'s behaviour towards me; yet I ſuffered not my reſentment to have the leaſt effect upon my conduct in the government.——When Major *Adams* made favourable mention of Major *Carnac*'s behaviour in one of the battles fought under his command, I did him more than juſtice in my report to the Court of Directors, as the general letter of the 8th *October* 1763 will ſhew; and I believe that this, I may add that very recommendation, was the means of getting him reſtored to the Company's ſervice: ſo that it is without reaſon he complains of the want of a proper return for his moſt fervent zeal.—Afterwards indeed, during his com-

I think it my duty, gentlemen, to lay before you the accompanying fourteen original *Perſian* papers; two of them being warrants, under *Meer Coſſim*'s ſeal, directing the murder of the *Engliſh* priſoners, and were delivered to Mr. *Batſon*, by the very perſons to whom they were delivered, as you will ſee by his note to me, herewith ſent. The other perwânahs ſerve to demonſtrate beyond poſſibility of a doubt, *Meer Coſſim*'s intention of commencing war againſt us, though the contrary has been ſo induſtriouſly propagated by the infatuated partizans of that moſt execrable of tyrants.

I am,
With great reſpect, *&c.*
(Signed) J. CARNAC.

mand in 1764, at the time when our army was blocked up, and inſulted by a rabble, and we had loſt a large part of the *Babar* province, I could not ſubſcribe to the title he gave himſelf, of "Our Deliverer," nor admit that extraordinary degree of military merit he pretended to.

With reſpect to the other part of Major *Carnac*'s letter, in which he ſays, that ſome of the *Perſian* papers, delivered to the board with the ſaid letter, ſerve to demonſtrate, beyond the poſſibility of a doubt, *Meer Coſſim*'s intention of commencing the war againſt us; I will not ſo poſitively aver, that he had no ſuch deſign, neither is it material for me to prove the contrary, as he is not charged with this intention until after the new demands made on him. But if I am rightly informed, as to the *Perſian* paper in queſtion, it is a letter from *Meer Coſſim* to *Meyndy Ally Khawn* (then Naib of *Patna*, ſee Major *Carnac*'s letter of the 23d *June* 1764) written after Meſſrs. *Amyatt* and *Hay*'s arrival at *Mongheer*, nearly in theſe words: "Mr. *Amyatt*'s propoſals for "a new treaty have been laid before "me. They are ſuch, as to deſire "me to relinquiſh the ſubahdary; "terms ſo ſevere, and ſo inconſiſtent "with all former treaties, will reduce "me to the neceſſity, as my laſt re-"ſource, of taking up arms. You "are therefore to be cautious in your "command, particularly ſo in all "your tranſactions with Mr. *Ellis*. "Do not commence hoſtilities, but "be ready to oppoſe any attacks "made on you."

If this is the caſe, it proves juſt the contrary of what Major *Carnac* alledges; but you, gentlemen, will be better judges, if you will pleaſe to order an exact tranſlation to be made from

from the *Perſian*, and I ſhall be much obliged to you, if you will permit me to have a copy both of the *Perſian* and the *Engliſh*.

I am,
Honourable Sir and Sirs,
Your moſt obedient,
humble ſervant,
(Signed)
HENRY VANSITTART.

NUM. XXIV.

COPY of a Letter from Lord Clive *to the Court of* East India *Directors. Dated the* 12*th* December 1766.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors, *&c. &c. &c.*

GENTLEMEN, *Calcutta, 12th December* 1766.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your letters of the 2d and 17th *May*, earneſtly requeſting my continuance in the government another year. My family concerns and parliamentary intereſts, important as they are, ſhould not make me heſitate to comply with a requeſt which does me ſo much honour, if the ſituation of your affairs demanded my longer ſervice, or if the reaſons which ſuggeſted to you the deſire of my remaining here were actually now exiſting.

The very weak condition, however, to which a ſevere bilious diſorder has reduced me, requires my immediate return to *Europe*. It is now a month ſince I have been in ſo deplorable a ſtate of health as to be wholly unable to attend to buſineſs; and it is paſt a doubt, that I cannot ſurvive the malignity of this climate another year.

Thus, uſeleſs as I am become to the Company, and without the leaſt proſpect of recovery in *Bengal*, I cannot doubt you will concur with me in the opinion of the abſolute neceſſity of returning to my native country.

The *faithful view* which I will now lay before you of the ſituation of your affairs, will moreover convince you, that the conſequences of which you are apprehenſive, after my departure, cannot, in all human probability, happen; and that every material object of my expedition is fully accompliſhed.

Agreeably

Agreeably to my advices of the 1ſt *February*, and 20th *March*, a Committee of inſpection has been appointed, for examining into the ſtate of every department, and for eſtabliſhing the neceſſary rules and orders for a general reformation. This Committee hath fully anſwered my intention. Your ſervants, civil and military, are no longer at a loſs for an exact definition of their reſpective duties. The new regulations are now in force, and in a few weeks will be firmly eſtabliſhed.

The licentious ſpirit of oppoſition and extravagancy, ſo juſtly complained of in your civil ſervants, is now entirely ſubdued. The gentlemen are reduced to act, and likewiſe to think reaſonably. Perfect harmony now reigns throughout the ſettlement; and all childiſh reſentments are at an end. Nothing remains to be apprehended, but what may reſult from the *extreme youth* of the majority of your ſervants; and this might have been effectually obviated before my departure, had ſufficient power been veſted in the Select Committee, or in me, to appoint ſome of the moſt able and diſintereſted of the free merchants upon this eſtabliſhment, and to require the aſſiſtance of four or five other gentlemen from *Madraſs*.

We have not only overcome the moſt formidable and dangerous mutiny that ever happened in this, or any country, but by example made of the ringleaders, and more eſpecially by obliging every officer in your army to execute a contract for three years ſervice, have given a ſtability and ſecurity to your military eſtabliſhment, which it never had before. It is upon the beſt founded confidence I aſſert, the *Eaſt India* Company was never ſo truly ſecure as at preſent, againſt military ambition and encroachment. Never before have diſcipline, good order, and ſubordination been ſo fully confirmed. And I am perſuaded, that a relaxation in your orders at home, and *a new degeneracy* of your Governor and Council abroad, are the only probable, I might almoſt ſay, poſſible evils that can ſhake the proſperity of your affairs in *Bengal*.

Our generoſity of conduct, in reſtoring to *Sujah al Dowlah* all his dominions, after he had been reduced by conqueſt to the very loweſt ebb of fortune; the great regard we have manifeſted to the King's ſupport and dignity, by paying him regularly that tribute which was never paid to former Moguls, excepting in their plenitude of power and authority; and our reſolving to pay the *Marahtahs* their *chout*, are inſtances of our moderation and diſintereſtedneſs, which added to the uninterrupted ſucceſs of our arms, have ſet our equity and courage in ſo fair a point of view, that all the neighbouring powers ſolicit our friendſhip and alliance. Upon us they depend for protection againſt any diſturbers of the peace of the country; and, at the ſame time, are under no apprehenſions from our bravery, becauſe they *are fully * convinced that our ambition extends not beyond the maintenance of our preſent poſſeſſions, and that one of our firſt principles of government is juſtice.* This being the true ſtate of affairs, to what purpoſe ſhould I continue longer in a

* Lord *Clive* was at this time on the point of departure from *Bengal*. Let the candid reader compare this paſſage with his lordſhip's advices, when on his paſſage towards *Bengal*. Letter A. page 33.

climate,

climate, which would certainly prove fatal to me? At the end of another and another year I could not leave your concerns in better hands, nor on a more proſperous footing than I now do. I ſhall leave in the chair the man *I always wiſhed to be my ſucceſſor*; a man whoſe inflexible integrity and ſteadineſs are to be ſecurely relied on: and I will uſe my utmoſt endeavours to leave with him *a well-choſen Committee*, and to inſpire into all the members of the Council *my ideas, and zeal* for the ſervice. If the principles of all your ſervants be not ſuch as we wiſh they were, the ſervice muſt ſuffer; nor will it be in my power to apply a remedy, any further than by offering you *my advice at home*. Every thing has already been done here that could be effected by me. The full completion of the great and ſalutary work of reformation muſt be performed by yourſelves. And you may be aſſured, I ſhall, at all times, be equally *ready in* England, as in *India*, to give every inſtance of my zeal for the Company's intereſt, in gratitude to a ſervice from whence I derive my fortune and my honours.

I have the honour to be,
With the greateſt reſpect,
GENTLEMEN,
Your moſt obedient, and
moſt humble ſervant,
(Signed) CLIVE.

NUM. XXV.

COPY of the Proceedings at a Select Committee, held at Barraſut, *the 27th of* December 1766, *relative to the aſſiduity, ſecrecy, and diſintereſtedneſs of the Committee, and their reſtraining the Trade in Raw-ſilk.*

Barraſut, the 27th December 1766.

At a Select Committee, preſent,
The Right Honourable Lord *Clive*, Preſident,
Harry Verelſt, Eſq; and
Brigadier General *John Carnac*.

DIVERS * frauds committed in the Company's *Calcutta* lands and pergunnahs having already been diſcovered, and there being great reaſon to ſuppoſe that many others, of conſequence to the Company's intereſt, may ſoon be brought to light,

* As it does not appear what the frauds here alluded to were, nor who were made amenable for them, it is moſt probable this, like many other minutes, was introduced to cut a figure upon paper.

Agreed,

Agreed, That to promote and facilitate the reſearches now making into the management of theſe lands, we keep the pergunnahs, &c. in our own hands till the firſt day of the *Bengal* year enſuing, that our inquiries may meet with no obſtruction from the artifice, the avarice, or the intereſt of the new farmers.

It being of great importance, that the proceedings and buſineſs of the Select Committee ſhould be kept ſecret;

Agreed, that, to prevent accidents, no papers ſhall in future be ſent from the Secretary's office, or taken from thence under any pretence, except by the Preſident, or the Secretary himſelf; and that all the other members of the Committee ſhall peruſe in the office ſuch papers as they may want to conſult.

As it has been the conſtant rule of this Committee, to oblige all private views to yield to the Company's intereſt, and as our honourable employers have ordered a larger inveſtment in raw-ſilk than we are able to provide, whilſt private merchants are permitted to buy up large quantities of that article;

Reſolved, That in future all private trade, without particular permiſſion, of raw-ſilk, ſpecified in the Company's liſt of inveſtment, ſhall be reſtrained.

(N. B. A great eraſure appears here in the original proceedings.)

That this our reſolution be diſpatched to the chief at *Coſſimbazar*, and the ſupraviſor at *Burdwan* and *Midnipore*; and alſo that we recommend to the Preſident to grant no perwânahs upon the above account, until the Company's demand ſhall be anſwered.

(Signed) CLIVE.
JOHN CARNAC.
H. VERELST.

NUM.

NUM. XXVI.

COPY of the Proceedings of the Select Committee held at Calcutta, *on the* 18*th* April 1767, *relative to the Complaints of* Gocul Sonar *and* Ramnaut Daſs, *againſt* Nobekiſſen.

Fort William, the 18*th April* 1767.

At a Select Committee, preſent,

The Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident,
John Cartier,
Claud Ruſſell, and
Alexander Campbell, Eſquires.

The HONOURABLE the PRESIDENT lays before the COMMITTEE the following Petition, preſented to him by *Nobekiſſen Munſhy*.

To the Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident and Governor, *&c. &c.* of *Fort William*,

The Memorial of *Nobekiſſen*, of *Calcutta*,

HUMBLY SHEWETH,

THAT it is with the utmoſt difficulty and reluctance your petitioner is reduced to the diſagreeable neceſſity of begging your honours patience for the peruſal of the following, which nothing but the moſt dear and valuable of all earthly privileges, the defence of his character, could have made him thus preſume to trouble you with; at the ſame time hopes, his conduct has, and ever ſhall be, unblamable before your eyes.

Your memorialiſt, the firſt time Lord *Clive* was in *Bengal*, during the government of the Nabob *Serajah al Dowlah*, was employed and *intruſted with all* * *private agreements made between the Nabob* Jaffier Ally Khawn, *and his lordſhip*; alſo, during the war with *Coſſim Ally Khawn*, he was, from the beginning to the end, attending on Major *Adams*, and executed ſuch ſervices, as cauſed his lordſhip, on his return to this country, to take him again into his ſervice; and as his lordſhip found him deſirous of no other employment than that of the public, and conſtant and faithful in the diſcharge of his duty, he was graciouſly pleaſed to raiſe him to great honour.

Before his lordſhip's departure for *England*, believing him to be ſufficiently experienced, he made him principal Banyan for the affairs of the govern-

* This accounts for the Noble Lord's ſubſequent patronage of *Nobekiſſen*, as deſcribed by Mr. *Verelſt*. See View of *Bengal*, *&c.* page 28.

ment: and, as a further teſtimony and approbation of his conduct, preſented him with an elephant and a medal.

Theſe marks of his lordſhip's favour and eſteem, together with the countenance he has ſince met with from your honour, by taking him into *your ſervice*, he has got too great occaſion to fear, has drawn on him the reſentment and jealouſy of wicked and envious minds, as the following facts will certainly evince; as they are only calculated to depreciate and wound the man whoſe good fortune, under the auſpices of his lordſhip and your honour, has raiſed him much above the common and uſual advances in life, and not, as they pretend, to puniſh the guilty.

My enemies have in vain ſearched for proofs, that I raiſed my fortune by bribery and undue means, in hopes that, by ſuch a diſcovery, they might have been able to have ruined my character and reputation. Diſappointed in theſe, their efforts are now extending to more baſe and villainous ends. My life is now what they thirſt after, altogether indifferent about the means by which it may be accompliſhed; for I can at this preſent prove, that two men, the one named *Ram Sunnar Goſe*, the other *Nemoo Gongolee*, have, either as principals, or employed by others, been tampering with a brahmin's wife of *Calcutta*, to accuſe me of violating her, ſaying that this was the moſt favourable time that could offer, and promiſed her a ſum of money for her compliance. The brahmin uſed his utmoſt endeavours to engage his wife in this wickedneſs, but happily for me ſhe abſolutely refuſed, although her life was threatened to accompliſh the deſign.

The preſent diabolical accuſation againſt me is as follows: one *Ram*, a goldſmith, complained to me, that his mother and brother-in-law forcibly with-held his wife from him in their houſe, and not only refuſed him admittance to her, but permitted another man to viſit her; from which circumſtance, if known, he would be in danger of loſing his caſt; therefore intreated me, as *I had the charge of the caſt-cutcherry*, to call the parties together before me, and endeavour to ſettle the affair. I complied with his requeſt, and after a hearing, the matter was compromiſed, to the apparent ſatisfaction of all concerned: but, to my great aſtoniſhment and ſurprize, near twenty days after, I found *Gocul* a brother-in-law of *Ram*, had preſented a petition to your honour, complaining, that I had endeavoured to take his ſiſter by force from his houſe.

You, Sir, referred the affair to Mr. *Ffloyer*, the then zemindar; and directed me to go to him for a clearing up of this matter. I obeyed, and found Mr. *Bolts* with *Gocul* and *Kiſno*, the two brothers-in-law of *Ram*, there.

Mr. *Ffloyer* entered upon the buſineſs; when *Gocul* gave him a paper, written in *Engliſh*, containing the complaint made againſt me; which Mr. *Bolts* declared was a true tranſlation he had made from the *Bengal*. Mr. *Ffloyer*, *having read it aloud*, Gocul *ſwore to, and ſigned it*. Mr. *Ffloyer* then aſked *Gocul*, if he had any witneſſes: telling him, now is the proper time for their evidence. *Gocul* replied, his brother *Kiſno*. Accordingly *Kiſno* was called in and ſworn. Mr. *Ffloyer* was deſirous of interrogating *Kiſno*; but Mr. *Bolts* interrupted him, by ſaying *Kiſno* was ready to ſwear to

what was contained in the written paper already ſubmitted and ſworn to by *Gocul*. Upon my requeſting Mr. *Bolts* might not interfere, he bid me hold my tongue, nor deſiſted till the zemindar ordered us both to be ſilent. Mr. *Ffloyer then took* Kiſno's *evidence, and wrote the particulars with his own* * *hand*. Afterwards I delivered my account: it being read, I ſwore to and ſigned it, alſo my witneſſes, for the truth of every particular, gave their depoſitions, and ſwore to them.

When it ſhall be known to your honours, that there is a very eſſential † difference in the depoſitions given by *Gocul* and *Kiſno*, notwithſtanding they live in the ſame houſe, and had concerted the whole affair together; and that *Kiſno*, at the inſtigation of *Bolts*, would have ſigned and ſwore to the depoſition given by his brother *Gocul*, had he not been prevented by my proteſting againſt ſuch proceedings as unfair; alſo that the tenor of the petition preſented to you, Honourable Sir, and the written depoſitions delivered to Mr. *Ffloyer*, are very far from agreeing with the pretended facts alleged againſt me, it ſurely will, I hope, be a ſufficient proof of my innocence. But ſhould this prove inſufficient for your ſatisfaction, I am ready and willing at any time to ſubſcribe to the moſt ſolemn oath, according to the rights and cuſtom of my religion, that I never, to the beſt of my knowledge, from the hour of my birth to this day, ſpoke with, ſaw, or have had any connexion with either of the three ſiſters of *Gocul* and *Kiſno*, nor did I know that there were ſuch perſons in being, till this affair was trumped up againſt me.

One thing more I beg leave to obſerve, that it ſhould have been the particular buſineſs of the ‡ woman injured to have immediately complained, and applied for juſtice, as the offence was of ſo heinous a nature; and not to have done it by my § *avowed enemy Mr.* Bolts, nor have ſuffered ſo much time to elapſe, contrary to the method in ſuch caſes; nor do I as yet know poſitively who the woman is that is ſaid to be injured by me.

All which I humbly ſubmit to your honour's conſideration, and your Petitioner, as in duty bound, ſhall ever pray.

Calcutta, 10th March, 1767. (Signed) NOBEKISSEN.

The above petition being read, the Preſident alſo lays before the Committee, a memorial *to the council* from *Ramnaut*, late banyan to Mr. *George Gray*, the ſubject of which the Preſident thinks comes *more properly under the conſideration of the* ‖ *Select Committee, than of the Board.*

* Mr. *Verelſt*, who ſigns this day's proceedings, begs to be excuſed from believing that the information "was ever ſubſcribed by Mr. *Ffloyer*." See View of *Bengal*, &c. page 29.

† This aſſertion, with the following part of the whole paragraph, was entirely falſe.

‡ The reader will pleaſe to be informed, that from the civil and religious cuſtoms of the *Hindoos*, no woman could or would have dared to complain of ſuch an injury, without the concurrence of her relations, much leſs would theſe dare attempt to ſue for juſtice in *Calcutta*, againſt a man in *Nobekiſſen*'s ſtation, without the aſſiſtance of an *European* advocate.

§ What this alludes to is unknown: for the writer never had any connexions with this man, whatever. See his vindication, letter F, Num. XVII.

‖ Becauſe it was neceſſary to tranſact under ſworn ſecrecy the wickedneſs here premeditated, which would not ſtand the teſt of public inquiry.

(Here comes in the petition of *Ramnaut* which has been given in "*Con-*
"*ſiderations on* India *affairs*," p. 100.)

Ramnaut's memorial being read, the Preſident obſerves, that the charge of venality and corruption contained in *Ramnaut*'s complaint againſt *Nobekiſſen* deſerves the ſerious attention and immediate conſideration of the Committee. That the ſtricteſt inquiry, he thinks, ſhould be made into the truth of the facts alledged, in order the Committee may have the moſt ſatisfactory proofs of the guilt or innocence of a perſon who, in quality of POLITICAL BANYAN is neceſſarily intruſted with the Company's moſt important affairs. That *Nobekiſſen* being likewiſe THE PRESIDENT'S MUNSHY, it becomes his indiſpenſable duty to be well ſatisfied of the integrity of a man in whom he unavoidably repoſes much confidence; and that any reluctance to hear complaints againſt *Nobekiſſen*, or backwardneſs to redreſs the grievances of thoſe who have been injured by him, will deeply reflect upon the honour and juſtice of the Preſident and Committee. For this reaſon it was, that *he ſent for* Ramnaut *and examined him upon the facts ſet forth in his memorial*, not one of which he finds *Ramnaut* can ſupport by a ſingle proof, or evidence, the whole charge reſting upon his ſingle aſſertion.

The Preſident further acquaints the Committee, it was with the ſame view he made inquiry into the other charges brought againſt *Nobekiſſen*, although they did not ſo immediately affect his character in a public ſtation, ſince conviction of his guilt in one inſtance would ſerve to corroborate the facts urged by *Ramnaut*, and render *Nobekiſſen* unworthy of the Committee's protection; that *he has the greateſt reaſon to* * *believe*, that the whole ſtory of *Nobekiſſen*'s having *violated the wife of a* Brahmin has been maliciouſly forged by *Nobekiſſen*'s enemies, with intention to ruin him.

That the other charge brought againſt *Nobekiſſen*, of his having forcibly carried off the wife of *Ram*, a goldſmith, appears to be equally void of truth, and to ſpring from the ſame principle of jealouſy and reſentment, as the Committee will perceive from THE ZEMINDAR'S REPORT of this tranſaction, which he now ſubmits to the conſideration of the Board.

To the Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, *&c.* Preſident, *&c.*

SIR,

HEREWITH I ſend you the information and depoſitions of the ſeveral perſons who appeared before me, in conſequence of the complaint made againſt *Nobekiſſen*. On peruſal of them I dare ſay you will be of opinion with me, that it is an accuſation maliciouſly invented to depreciate his character, and to detail a general odium upon him; as there is not a ſingle circumſtance in the ſaid depoſitions that can even create a ſuſpicion of his having had the informant's ſiſter at his houſe.

* It was the uniform practice of the Preſident and Secret Committee to ſubſtitute their own private belief in the room of conviction upon a public trial of facts. But the reader will pleaſe to be informed, that there was no ſuch charge brought againſt *Nobekiſſen* by *Gocul Sonar*, or *Ramnaut*, as the violation of a *Brahmin*'s wife.

As

As I am not now zemindar, I have no longer the power to officiate as ſuch in the puniſhment I think is due to the informant and his brother; but *I will explain the caſe* to Mr. *Alderſey*, the preſent zemindar, that he may proceed therein as he thinks proper.

After you have done, Sir, with the information and depoſitions, I ſhall be obliged to you, if you would be pleaſed to return them to me, that they may be given to the preſent zemindar. The information and *Nobekiſſen*'s depoſition were both brought to me, written in the *Engliſh* language, *which after having been read and explained to the informant and deponent, they took their oaths to, and ſigned.* The others were taken in my preſence.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

February 17, 1767*. Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

(Signed) CHARLES FFLOYER.

The Preſident further obſerves, that whatever his own ſentiments may be, he thinks it neceſſary the Committee ſhould make the ſtricteſt inquiry into the facts above repreſented, by calling before them *Ramnaut* and the other accuſers, that if *Nobekiſſen* ſhould appear to them guilty of any part of ſo heinous a charge, he may immediately be diſmiſſed from his employments, and otherwiſe puniſhed with the moſt exemplary ſeverity. But that if on the contrary, his innocence ſhould become manifeſt, and his reputation be cleared to the entire ſatisfaction of the Committee, they would then take the neceſſary meaſures for his protection, and the puniſhment, not only of the † *infamous* accuſers themſelves, but of all who ſhall appear to have aſſiſted, inſtigated, promoted, and encouraged ſo villainous an attempt againſt the life and character of *a ſervant of the Honourable Company*, acting in ſo high and important a ſtation.

The Preſident concludes with acquainting the Committee, that having reaſon to believe *Ramnaut*, the brahmin, and other accuſers upon this occaſion are the tools and inſtruments of a concealed faction, he had ordered ‡ *them* under a guard to prevent their being *tampered with and inſtructed in their evidences, until they could be examined by the Committee.*

Upon the repreſentation from the Preſident, the Committee judge it neceſſary to their own honour, that *Nobekiſſen*'s accuſers ſhould be examined before them.

Accordingly *Ramnaut* being called upon, had the following queſtions propoſed to him by the Preſident.

Q. In your memorial to the Council, you accuſed *Nobekiſſen* of taking and extorting from you money and effects to the amount of 36,200 rupees. In what manner and for what purpoſes was this ſum taken from you?

* The reader will pleaſe to remark, among the infamous circumſtances attending theſe proceedings, that *Nobekiſſen*'s petition to the Preſident is dated the 10th of *March* 1767, and Mr. *Ffloyer*'s report, the 17th *February* 1767, whereas the complaint of *Gocul Sonar* was firſt taken on oath by Mr. *Ffloyer* on the 20th *March* 1767.

† Their infamy is here aſcertained before the examination of the facts.

‡ There were none put under a guard but *Ramnaut*.

A. When

A. When I was firſt under confinement, *Nobekiſſen* ſent to me, and told me to give him ſomething and he would procure my releaſe. To which I anſwered, by deſiring three days to conſider of it, and at the end of that time I conſented to give him 25,000 rupees.

Q. Who brought you the meſſage from *Nobekiſſen*?

A. He was a light-coloured man, but I did not know him, nor have I ſeen him ſince this tranſaction happened.

Q. By whom did you return the anſwer that you would give 25,000 rupees?

A. By the ſame man that brought the meſſage.

Q. Did that man ſtay with you for the three days which you took to conſider of your anſwer?

A. No: he came three days ſucceſſively.

Q. Did you ever aſk the man his name?

A. I believe I did, but I do not recollect what it was.

Q. Did you inquire his employment?

A. Yes, it was that of a ſircar.

Q. You ſay, in your memorial, that *Nobekiſſen* took from you a ring worth 14,200 rupees.—In what manner was this ring taken, and whom did you deliver it to?

A. One day that *Nobekiſſen* came to me, he embraced me in a friendly manner, and ſat down with me, and DESIRED I WOULD BRING COMPLAINTS AND ACCUSATIONS AGAINST MR. GRAY. He likewiſe aſked, if I received and underſtood the meſſage he had ſent? and I replied that I did, and had agreed to give him 25,000 rupees, upon which he ſaid, "Give it me;" I told him I had not the money at that time, but I went to my eſcrutore, and took out the ring, which I gave him with a nuzzer of two gold mohurs, telling him that I valued the ring at 14,200 rupees.

Q. Who was preſent at this tranſaction?

A. Nobody. I was then confined under a guard.

Q. How came you by a ring of ſo great value?

A. I got it near *Banaras*, having purchaſed it from *Carreembeg*.

Q. Who is that *Carreembeg*, and where is he?

A. I believe he is gone to *Dehly*.

Q. You likewiſe declare, in your memorial, that in the month of *December*, 1765, he took from you 500 gold mohurs. In what manner were theſe mohurs taken, and for what purpoſe?

A. That was alſo whilſt I was confined. I deſired to have the guards removed. *Nobekiſſen* anſwered, that I had not yet paid the ſum I promiſed him, to which I replied, that I had only 500 gold mohurs in caſh, which I was ready to pay, and accordingly then gave to him.

Q. Was there any one preſent when you gave the money?

A. No, there was no one preſent. The people were all ſent away, and I gave the mohurs into his own hands.

Q. You alſo ſay in your complaint, that in the month of *March*, 1766, you had a farther ſum of 400 gold mohurs taken from you by *Nobekiſſen*. Who was preſent when this money was taken?

A. I

A. I gave theſe mohurs after my releaſe. *Some of my relations being then confined, I gave the money in conſideration of their freedom.* I went to *Nobekiſſen*'s houſe, and *Jaggamahone*, my * *Kiſſmatgur* went with me and carried the mohurs: but on my entering on converſation with *Nobekiſſen*, he retired to a private room and did not ſee me deliver the money.

Q. Where is *Jaggamahone?*

A. He is gone to *Maldah.*

Q. You further alledge, that *Nobekiſſen* took 500 gold mohurs from you in the month of *Auguſt* laſt. Where, for what purpoſe, and who was preſent when this money was given?

A. When *Nobekiſſen* returned from *Patna* in *Auguſt*, I viſited him, and he told me that he underſtood I was turned a great merchant and had bought a quantity of cotton and other goods. A few days after this converſation, peons were placed upon my houſe; and in two or three days after, I was conveyed to the Governor's houſe, and kept there till eight o'clock at night. Another day I was carried there, and detained till twelve in the forenoon. Upon this I offered 500 gold mohurs for my liberty: upon which *Nobekiſſen* ſent to order away the peons from my houſe.

Q. Did you ever acquaint any perſon of the ſums extorted from you by *Nobekiſſen?*

A. Yes: I informed my own ſervants, and ſeveral other perſons.

Q. Can you name any one to whom you gave information?

A. I cannot recollect any perſon in particular.

Q. You ſay you were ordered by *Nobekiſſen* to give preſents to the amount of 2000 rupees to his ſervants; was it by his order?

A. No: it was not by his order, but I gave preſents to his people in value 2000 rupees.

Q. You ſay you gave the ring in the month of *November*, 1765. Why did you not complain ſooner of the money and effects extorted from you?

A. I *was confined the greateſt part of the time ſince*, which was the reaſon I did not complain.

Q. Did you not in the month of *Auguſt* come to Mr. *Verelſt* for leave to return to *Maldah?* Did not you then owe him money for goods formerly bought of him, and *for payment of which you were preſſed?* and did not you excuſe yourſelf, by pleading poverty? Why did not you then complain of thoſe extortions by which you were impoveriſhed, and prevented from diſcharging your juſt debts?

A. I was afraid of *Nobekiſſen.*

Q. You know that *Nobekiſſen* is ſtill in the ſame employments. Why are you not afraid of him now, as well as then?

A. I am in hopes of obtaining juſtice from the governor, who acts under God.

Q. Have you been adviſed by any one to prefer this complaint?

A. No; it is voluntary: but entering, on the 5th day of this month, into the ſervice of Mr. *Bolts*, I related my caſe to him. He ſaid it was very hard,

* A domeſtic ſervant.

adviſed

adviſed me to complain to the Governor and Council, and drew up my paper of complaint.

Q. In what particular ſtation do you ſerve Mr. *Bolts?*

A. I was entertained to collect outſtanding balances in *Purnea* and other places, on promiſe of being paid a hundred rupees *per* month, but I have not yet received any wages.

Q. Have you done any buſineſs for Mr. *Bolts?*

A. No, I have not; I have only gone to his office to make my complaints.

Q. Have you any thing further to alledge againſt *Nobekiſſen?*

A. No, I have not.

Nobekiſſen was then called in, and the above evidence being read to him and *Ramnaut*, he is deſired to ſpeak what he has to offer in his own defence.

Nobekiſſen accordingly confeſſes, that when he went, by Lord *Clive*'s order, to *Ramnaut*, about the money he was directed by the Governor and Council to * refund to the inhabitants of *Maldah*: he then received from *Ramnaut* a nuzzer of two gold mohurs; he alſo received from him at another time a nuzzer of two or three pieces of cloth. That as to the ring, he calls upon *Ramnaut* to produce a ſingle proof that he ever had ſuch a ring in his poſſeſſion. The names of all the ſervants of his family at that time ſtand regiſtered in his books. He deſires they may all be called upon to declare whether they ever ſaw the ring mentioned, or whether they, or any of them, ever carried any demands for money from him upon *Ramnaut*, or whether they knew that he had received ſuch ſums, or had ever ſeen an entry in his books of ſuch preſents as *Ramnaut* alleges? He farther offers to give a reſtitution-bond to the Committee, to the amount of 36,200 rupees, nay his whole fortune, ſhould *Ramnaut* be able to prove that he ever received or obtained from him, by preſents or otherwiſe, to the value of one ſingle rupee, more than the two mohurs and pieces of cloth already mentioned; and *he very juſtly remarks* the inconſiſtency that appears in *Ramnaut*'s complaint. *Ramnaut* was directed by the Council to refund 27,000 rupees. This was in *November*. He was confined until he could give ſecurity for that ſum. There was no other cauſe, nor can he (*Ramnaut*) mention any other cauſe aſſigned for his confinement. He muſt acknowledge, that he could not either pay or give ſecurity for the payment of 27,000 rupees, which would have procured his freedom; and yet he now alleges, that he gave *Nobekiſſen* to the amount of 36,200 rupees, only to interceed for his releaſe. *Nobekiſſen* concludes his defence with theſe words †:

"After he had corrupted me with more than the ſum he was ordered to refund, "he was ſtill ſubject to the demand: whereas by a proper application of his "money he might have ſerved every purpoſe, without aſſiſtance from "me. What probability, gentlemen, is there in this ſtory? you are the "judges."

* The reader will pleaſe to remark, that this reſtitution was a mere pretence for *Ramnaut*'s impriſonment; that there was not a rupee refunded, nor was the ſituation of the inhabitants at *Maldah* ever conſidered, from his firſt confinement until his releaſement, after the departure of Mr. *George Gray*.

† This appears a quotation from another paper, which the Committee have not *thought proper* to incorporate with their proceedings.

Nobekiſſen

Nobekiſſen having finiſhed his defence, *Ramnaut* is told, that every particular of his acculation being flatly denied by *Nobekiſſen*, and rendered very improbable by ſome circumſtances pointed out by the defendant, it now becomes neceſſary he ſhould produce ſome proofs of the truth of his charge, which he might bring with as much appearance of truth againſt any other man as *Nobekiſſen*; and being aſked, whether he had any proofs? he anſwers, that he has none, for that the whole tranſaction was carried on with the greateſt privacy.

Ramnaut was then ordered to retire.

Nobekiſſen deſiring that *Conytacoor* the *Brahmin*, his wife, and the evidences mentioned in his petition, might be examined by the Committee, before they came to any reſolution: they were accordingly called in; and the *Brahmin* being aſked if he had any matter of complaint againſt *Nobekiſſen*, replies, "No;" that he has nothing himſelf to allege, but that he had been much preſſed and ſolicited by *Ram Sunnar Goſe* and *Nemoo Gongolee*, to accuſe *Nobekiſſen* of violating his wife; that he had been ſent for by *Nundcomar*, who deſired he would complain of *Nobekiſſen* to the Board, and ſaid he would aſſiſt him with money in the mean time, and when the affair was over, give him 25,000 rupees to compenſate him for loſs of caſt. He further declares, that wrought upon by *Nundcomar*'s promiſes, and the perſuaſions of *Ram Sunnar Goſe* and *Nemoo Gongolee*, he uſed his utmoſt endeavours to prevail on his wife to accuſe *Nobekiſſen*, but ſhe would never give her conſent to be the inſtrument of ruining an innocent man: and that when he aſked *Ram Sunnar Goſe* and *Nemoo Gongolee* for what purpoſe they would have him accuſe *Nobekiſſen*, their anſwer was, that he would be ſued for carrying away the goldſmith's wife, and that this freſh charge would add a link to the chain.

The *Brahmin* having finiſhed his declaration, *Ram Sunnar Goſe* was called in, and being informed of the particulars of the *Brahmin*'s declaration, was aſked what he had to reply in his own defence; accordingly he confeſſes, that he has been to the *Brahmin*'s houſe, that he knew of *Nemoo Gongolee*'s attempt to bring the *Brahmin*'s wife to accuſe *Nobekiſſen*, but that he himſelf never interfered in the buſineſs, or ſpoke upon the ſubject to the *Brahmin*, or his wife.

To confront *Ram Sunnar Goſe*, the *Brahmin*'s wife is called in; ſhe declares that ſhe never was any way injured by *Nobekiſſen*, but that *Ram Sunnar Goſe* and *Nemoo Gongolee* had uſed every endeavour to perſuade her and her huſband to accuſe him. That *Nemoo Gongolee* offered to give her 500 rupees in * *Joys*, and 2000 rupees in money, if ſhe would conſent; and that *Nundcomar* and *Nemoo Gongolee* had worked ſo much upon the mind of her huſband, by large promiſes and offers of money, that he (the *Brahmin*) even threatened her life if ſhe refuſed to comply. However, that ſhe ſtill perſiſted in declaring ſhe would never ruin an innocent perſon; and at laſt finding there

* Jewels, from the *Portugueze*, *Joya*.

was no end to perſecuting her, ſhe ſent * *privately* to acquaint *Nobekiſſen* with the deſigns formed againſt him by his enemies.

Kiſſandebuſs declares, before the Committee, that he heard *Nemoo Gongolee* ſoliciting the *Brahmin*'s wife to accuſe *Nobekiſſen*, and aſſuring her that *Nundcomar* would give her *Joys*, and 2000 rupees in money if ſhe would conſent.

The ſame is alſo confirmed by *Carteram*, who relates the ſame circumſtances as the *Brahmin*'s wife and *Kiſſandebuſs*, of the ſhare *Nundcomar* has in this tranſaction.

The ſeveral evidences being now diſmiſſed, the Select Committee proceeded to the following RESOLUTIONS, *viz.*

That the charge brought againſt *Nobekiſſen* by *Ramnaut* is neither confirmed by proofs, nor corroborated by circumſtances; and that it reſts entirely upon the bare aſſertion of a man already † *convicted* of avowed perjury before the Council, and who appears to have been inſtigated by a faction, and impelled by reſentment to make this daring attack on the character of a perſon *countenanced and protected by* THE GOVERNMENT.

That, therefore, *Ramnaut*, as a juſt puniſhment for his having *forged and publiſhed* a falſe, ſcandalous, and malicious libel, be ſent out of *Calcutta*, and delivered over to THE COUNTRY GOVERNMENT, to make good to the inhabitants of *Maldah* the ſeveral ſums he extorted from them, agreeably to the following reſolution of the Council of the 30th day of *December* 1765:

"The Board having peruſed and conſidered the ſeveral proceedings already taken and recorded, are of opinion, that *Ramnaut* appears to be a notorious villain; having certainly taken ſeveral ſums of money from many people in the province of *Bengal*, by extortion and violence, and committed crimes for which he deſerves the moſt exemplary puniſhment. This circumſtance the Board however refer for farther conſideration, and for the preſent, RESOLVE, That he ſhall refund to the different people the whole that he had collected from them."

That Mr. *William Bolts* appears from many circumſtances, to be deeply concerned in the conſpiracy to ruin *Nobekiſſen*'s character and attempt his life; in which opinion the Committee are confirmed, by his violent and declared reſentment to *Nobekiſſen*, by the ſhare he took in ſtirring up and inſtigating a proſecution againſt him in the Zemindary Court, upon an imaginary and falſe accuſation; and particularly from his taking at this juncture into his ſervice, *Ramnaut*, a man who ſtands publicly convicted of perjury; *with a view of forging and publiſhing* farther aſperſions upon *Nobekiſſen*'s character.

That Mr. *Bolts* having on this and many other occaſions endeavoured to draw an odium upon the adminiſtration, and to promote faction and diſ-

* It is only ſuch perſons as are acquainted with the religious and civil cuſtoms of the *Hindoos*, but particularly of the *Brahmins*, who can form an adequate idea of the fabrication of this whole ſtory.

† The ideas which this Committee entertained of the adminiſtration of juſtice are truly worthy of notice. They ſeize a man by military force, and confine him: under ſworn ſecrecy among themſelves they make him ſay, or ſwear, and they record, what they pleaſe; and upon contradictions appearing from what has been ſo recorded, which if not wilfully occaſioned by themſelves, have perhaps ariſen from their own ignorance of the language in which the evidence was taken, they have the modeſty to pronounce a man convicted of perjury.

content

content in the ſettlement, has rendered himſelf unworthy of any farther indulgence from the Committee, and of the Company's protection.

That therefore he be directed to quit *Bengal* and proceed to *Madraſs* by the firſt ſhip that ſhall ſail for that preſidency in the month of *July* next, in order to take his paſſage from thence to *Europe* in *September*.

That *Nundcomar* appearing to have promoted, inſtigated, and forged accuſations againſt *Nobekiſſen* by large promiſes of money and preſents, with a view of gratifying his perſonal reſentment, and indulging an intriguing diſpoſition, ſhall be ordered by the Preſident ſtrictly to confine himſelf to his own houſe, and in future to avoid ſuch practices, on pain of forfeiting the Company's protection, and being *delivered over to the country government* for ſuch puniſhment as his crimes may be thought to deſerve.

That the zemindar be deſired, by the Preſident, to inflict ſuch puniſhment upon *Ram* the goldſmith, and the other evidences upon that occaſion, as he ſhall think due to the baſe attempt to ruin the character and take away the life of an innocent perſon.

And, laſtly, That *Ram Sunnar Goſe*, *Nemoo Gongolee*, and the other inſtruments and agents employed by *Nundcomar* to ſtir up and carry on this proſecution, SHALL BE PUBLICLY FLOGGED, *and turned out of the ſettlement*.

The Preſident now acquaints the Committee, that, purſuant to a former reſolution of this board, he propoſes ſetting out in a few days to * *Murſhedabad*, to be preſent at the enſuing *poonea*, from whence he will proceed to *Patna*, with a view of regulating the collections, and examining into the preſent ſtate and condition of the provinces. He intends alſo, if time will permit, to pay a viſit to his Majeſty and *Sujah al Dowlah*, who have been particularly urgent in requeſting an interview with him.

(Signed) H. VERELST,
JOHN CARTIER,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
ALEX. CAMPBELL.

* As *Ramnaut* was likewiſe ſent under guards to *Murſhedabad*, this viſit would alſo give the Preſident an opportunity of privately concerting with the mock NABOB any meaſures he might think proper, reſpecting that devoted victim, beyond the power of detection; while it kept him out of the way of renewing any application for juſtice from the *Engliſh* laws.

NUM. XXVII.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings at a Select Committee held at Calcutta, *the 6th of July* 1767, *upon a Letter from Meſſrs.* Harry Verelſt *and* Francis Sykes, *relative to the Revenues and Trade of the Country, and other Matters.*

Fort William, the 6th July 1767.

At a Select Committee, preſent,

The Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident,
John Cartier,
Richard Becher, and
Alexander Campbell, Eſquires.

THE Honourable the Preſident, being now returned, takes his ſeat in Committee, and lays before us the following letter, written by himſelf and the Reſident at the *Durbar*, on the buſineſs tranſacted at the City during his abſence.

To *John Cartier*, Eſq; *&c.* Gentlemen of the Select Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

WE have now the honour to tranſmit you an account of the revenues ariſing from the lands compoſing the province of *Bengal*, as adjuſted with the ſeveral zemindars, talookdars, and collectors at the late *poonea*. It will, at one view, point out to you the amount at which the revenues were eſtimated laſt year, the ſeveral receipts, the deficiencies of each diſtrict, and charges attending the collections; the amount at which ſome diſtricts have been over-rated, and the addition to the revenues by the increaſe we have made on others.

The over-rates now ſtruck off from ſeveral of the diſtricts, we are, from the cleareſt demonſtration, convinced, could not be collected but with the greateſt diſtreſs to the ryots, and abſolute ruin to the lands. Almoſt all thoſe over-rates have been brought on, year after year, through a cuſtom of never ſtriking off from the rent-roll any ſums which have been once brought on: a practice which could anſwer no other purpoſe than giving you an idea of heavy balances remaining uncollected, without the leaſt proſpect of receiving any part of them. The object we have conſtantly aimed at, in this adjuſtment, has been a juſt and equitable eſtimation of the rents, equally attending to the rights of the government and the welfare of the ſubjects. And we have great reaſon to flatter ourſelves, that the whole amount of this year's revenues will be collected.

By this arrangement you will perceive, that the net amount of laſt year's ſtatement exceeded one crore and ſixty-one lacks: whereas the preſent ſtatement ſtands only at one crore, fifty-nine lacks. But as the laſt year's collections amounted only to rupees 14,315,310—9—13, and as you may aſſure yourſelves

yourſelves of the whole of the preſent year's ſtatement being collected, the revenue will gain an actual increaſe of ſixteen lacks. The above difference in the ſtatements ariſes from the lands having hitherto been ſo much overrated: a circumſtance we had not an opportunity of being thoroughly acquainted with till now.

You will alſo be pleaſed to obſerve, that the charges of the collections have been reduced above two lacks of rupees, notwithſtanding the allowances to the zemindars and collectors have been ſettled in ſuch manner as to leave them not the leaſt plea for extortion or oppreſſion: and they have the ſtricteſt injunctions given them to promote the cultivation of lands, encourage trade, and afford every protection to the induſtrious ryots. At the ſame time they are cautioned, that any miſconduct on their part will meet with it's proper puniſhment.

Among other inſtances of neglect and fraud in the laſt year's collections, the miniſters have been obliged particularly to point out *Mirza Coſſim*, the Fowzdar of *Hoogly*. His conduct has been ſo atrocious, and his behaviour ſo inſolent, refuſing to give any explanation of his accounts, or account for the rents that are due from him, attended with ſuch perſonal invectives againſt the miniſters and Mr. *Sykes*, that they have been under an abſolute neceſſity of diſmiſſing him from all his employments: and his accounts are now under ſcrutiny.

The ſeveral regulations made laſt year for the chokeys, in different parts of the country, have been inforced, as far as time and circumſtances would allow of: the benefit of which you will perceive by the conſiderable addition to the collection of duties; and we doubt not but, with proper care, it will be found to anſwer your utmoſt expectations.

We have alſo, gentlemen, endeavoured to diſcover the ſource of the continual complaints made to our board by the *French* and *Dutch* factories, of the interruption and oppreſſion of their trade, and, if poſſible, to apply ſome remedy: but we are ſorry to ſay, that a thorough knowledge of the ſubject has only ſerved to convince us of the immediate impracticability of the undertaking. The truth of the matter is, that this country does not afford a ſufficient quantity of goods to anſwer the demands of each Company, ſince our Company's inveſtments have been ſo conſiderably increaſed; although the trade of private merchants has been curbed and curtailed to the utmoſt. To ſatisfy our neighbours, therefore, we muſt either yield them up a part of our own inveſtment, or uſe our endeavours to increaſe the annual produce of each manufacture. We would recommend the latter method as the moſt eligible: and we have already laid the ſtricteſt injunctions on all the zemindars and landholders to give every encouragement, in their reſpective diſtricts, to the cultivation of the mulberry-tree and cotton-plant. We have even eaſed the ground-rent on lands ſo cultivated, in a proportion that will make it more advantageous to the tenant to raiſe that kind of produce than any other. We have already procured the winders an exemption from all occaſional taxes, or any other demand that can in the leaſt interrupt or impede their labours; and have ſtrongly recommended them to the protection of all the zemindars.

Although no very immediate benefit may be expected from theſe regulations, we doubt not but by a ſtrict and conſtant attention it will be brought to anſwer the deſired purpoſe.

As

As a farther proof of our deſire to remove every obſtacle which the trade of the *French* and *Dutch* Companies may labour under, we have exerted our intereſt with the miniſters to get the duty of *mangon* aboliſhed, which will cauſe a difference of 20,000 rupees yearly to the government: an object of trifling concern, when compared with the general inconveniencies that duty cauſed, as well to public as to private trade; for it ſubjected the goods of every merchant to all the impediments and obſtructions which a *Chokey-Sirdar*, or an officer of the government might find it for his intereſt to throw in their way.

We have lately had ſeveral conferences with *Podipoory Guſſein*, the *Marahtah* vakeel, appointed by *Janogee* to treat with the Preſident, regarding the ceſſion of the *Cuttack* province to the Company. The vakeel has demanded the annual payment of ſixteen lacks of rupees: the ſum promiſed him by Lord *Clive*, as he poſitively and conſtantly affirms. We have, however, brought him to accept of thirteen lacks, on condition that one-half of the firſt year's rent be paid him on the immediate ceſſion of the Subah, and the other half as ſoon as we are in full poſſeſſion; provided that *Janogee* ſhall be fully impowered by his ſuperiors to conclude the treaty, and make the propoſed ceſſion.

The Nabob and the Preſident have, however, acquainted *Janogee*, that he is to conſider this ſum as a full compenſation for all demands of chout, *&c.* on theſe Subahs. But notwithſtanding *Janogee*, in his letter to the Preſident, mentions that he has inveſted his vakeel with full powers to negociate and finally conclude this affair, the latter declares he has no authority to deliver up the country, without farther inſtructions from his maſter. This delay is owing to ſome private detentions given him by *Janogee*, to endeavour to bring about an offenſive and defenſive alliance between him and the *Engliſh*: a meaſure we think ſhould at the preſent juncture be avoided, as he is an open and avowed enemy to the *Marahtahs* on the other coaſt, with whom, by our treaty with *Nizam Ally*, we are in alliance. However, we would not diſcourage it intirely, as it is highly probable that a rupture with the *Marahtahs* there may ſoon enſue: and in that caſe an alliance with *Janogee* will greatly conduce to ſtrengthen our arms and influence.

Juggut Seat, *at our requeſt*, has engaged to eſtabliſh a houſe to attend the King, and to pay him his tribute, by regular monthly payments, in viziery rupees, at an exchange of three *per cent.* on the current rupee of *Calcutta*: in conſequence of which his Majeſty's accounts have been made up to the end of this month, and the balance accounted for by a bill drawn by *Juggut Seat*, payable to his Majeſty on the above terms.

This alteration will remove the frequent diſcontents between the King's dependents and others who have long been ſtruggling to obtain the payment of the royal tribute, on account of the advantages accruing from it; and of which his Majeſty has frequently made complaints to the Preſident, earneſtly requeſting that a houſe of *Juggut Seat*'s, or ſome other ſubſtantial banker, might be eſtabliſhed to attend him for that purpoſe. The Company will likewiſe be a gainer of nine or ten *per cent.* by the above mode of payment, provided

provided his Majeſty will be content to receive his tribute, *as he has hitherto done, in viziery rupees.*

Mr. *Meſtayer*, the ſuperintendant of the cantonments at *Byrampore*, has, in conſequence of our directions, as mentioned in a former letter of the Preſident's to the Committee, delivered us in an account of the expences already incurred: by which it appears, that more than the amount of the original eſtimate has been already expended, and the cantonments not one quarter part completed. He has likewiſe laid before us an eſtimate of the total expence the cantonments will occaſion before they are finiſhed, amounting to the enormous ſum of twelve lacks of rupees. As the Preſident leaves the city in a few days, he will bring with him the ſeveral papers, in order to lay them before you.

In compliance with the orders of the Committee, Mr. *Sykes* has uſed his utmoſt endeavours, in conjunction with the miniſters, to reduce the demand of arrears due to *Meer Jaffier*'s ſepoys: and they have at length ſettled it at rupees 524,269. 1. 15, including 55,000 rupees, which they have allowed *Doolubram*, as an equitable proportion for his part of the demand, amounting to 173,700 rupees. This we think is ſettled at as low a rate as equity and juſtice will admit of, conſidering the number of the ſurviving claimants. Rupees 200,174. 12. 5. were paid ſome time ago, by order of Lord *Clive*, to prevent their raiſing diſturbances in the city; and Mr. *Sykes* now requeſts your orders with regard to diſcharging the balance, amounting to 324,094. 5. 10 as you will obſerve by the incloſed account.

The demands of Meſſrs. *Leycester*, *Johnſtone*, *Barwell*, and *Williamſon*, on account of advances made on contracts for ſalt, Mr. *Sykes* has examined into: and from a reſearch made into THE GOVERNMENT-BOOKS at *Hoogly*, it does not appear that the three firſt-named gentlemen's contracts are regiſtered, or that the advances were made *on the public account*. He therefore begs leave to refer it to you, whether they can be demanded as debts of the Fowzdar who held that ſtation when the contracts were entered into.

Mr. *Williamſon*'s demand does appear on the government-books: and on that account *Meer Jaffier* conſidered the revenue as anſwerable for it, and actually paid him a part. The remainder is ſtill due, which Mr. *Sykes* waits your orders upon, whether it is to be paid by the government or not.

We have the honour to incloſe you the treaſury-account for *April* 1767, and likewiſe a general treaſury-account, which will give you a diſtinct view of the whole of the receipts and diſburſements for the year: and by the King's and Nabob's accounts, which accompany this, you will obſerve, that their reſpective payments have been completed. A liſt of balance is likewiſe incloſed.

We have the honour to be, with reſpect,

GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obedient, and
moſt humble ſervants,

H. VERELST,
FRAN. SYKES.

Mootejil,
28th June 1767.

NUM.

NUM. XXVIII.

COPY of Proceedings at a Select Committee held at Calcutta, *on the* 2d September 1767, *relative to a plan proposed by Mr.* Sykes, *for carrying on the inland Trade in Salt, Beetle-nut, and Tobacco.*

Fort William, the 2d September 1767.

☞ At a Select Committee, present,

The Honourable *Harry Verelst*, Esquire, President,
John Cartier,
Richard Becher, and
Alexander Campbell, Esquires.

READ the following letter from Mr. *Sykes*, Resident at the *Durbar*, under date the 18th of *August*.

To the Honourable *Harry Verelst*, *&c.* Gentlemen of the Select Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

SINCE my last, of the 9th instant, I have had several *conversations with the ministers* on the subject of the inland trade of salt, beetle-nut, and tobacco.

The following plan, the heads of which I have the honour to lay before you, appears to us best calculated for conducting the salt-trade according to the spirit of your intentions, expressed in your letter of the 4th instant.

We would propose, that the salt-lands should be marked, on account of the government, under the particular inspection of the ministers. The rents of those lands to be appropriated to the first purchase of the salt, and the necessary charges attending it. The zemindars and officers of the government to oversee the making of the salt: and the whole quantity made to be brought to the grand marts of the *Buksh-Bunder* and *Shah-Bunder*. It may there be disposed of at prime cost, to natives and subjects of the country only: the customary duties of the government levied on the first sale, and thence conveyed at pleasure, and vended and revended in any part of the country, without further impediment or obstruction. And as an account will be kept of the names of the several purchasers, which may be laid before you from time to time, you will always be enabled to form a proper judgment of the manner in which the trade is conducted, as well as to check any tendency to abuse or monopoly, in it's first growth.

Such are the outlines of the plan which I now offer for your consideration. I have only to add, that whilst I remain in my present station, I will ever exert my utmost endeavours to see the benevolent intentions of our employers complied with in their fullest extent; that the advantages of the salt-trade may be

equally

equally participated by the commercial part of the inhabitants of theſe provinces, and the poor receive ſo neceſſary an article of life at the cheapeſt rate. In behalf of the miniſters, I have alſo their aſſurances to make, that nothing on their part ſhall be wanting, and that they will iſſue the *proper orders for preventing the French, Dutch, Danes, and other Europeans, from interfering.*

In my former letter, I mentioned that when the ſociety of ſalt-trade was eſtabliſhed, perwânahs had been circulated through the different parts of the country, forbidding the inhabitants to deal in that article. I now requeſt your orders with regard to recalling thoſe perwânahs, as well as in reſpect to the boats, which the miniſters have deſired may be built for tranſporting the Company's timbers, *Chunam. &c.* and I have before repreſented, as abſolutely neceſſary for conducting the buſineſs.

I have the pleaſure to inform you, that the collections go on well: and that the revenues have been received, according to the monthly ſtated payments, from moſt of the provinces.

I yeſterday diſpatched to you five boats, containing two lacks and a half of ſicca rupees; and I now incloſe you bills to the amount of five lacks and a half more: the whole remittance being eight lacks in tale, according to the particulars of the incloſed invoice.

I am, with much reſpect,

GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

Mootejil,
18th Aug. 1767.

(Signed) FRAN. SYKES.

Ordered, the invoice accompanying the above letter be entered after the proceedings: and

Agreed, we reply to Mr. *Sykes* in the following terms:

To *Francis Sykes*, Eſq; Reſident at the *Durbar*.

SIR,

AFTER maturely conſidering the plan which you and the miniſter propoſe for conducting the ſalt-buſineſs, we are of opinion it might leave room for miſconſtruction in a point deeply intereſting to the credit of this board: and that for this reaſon *chiefly* it ought not to be adopted. Whilſt the manufacturing of ſalt remains under the ſole direction of the principal officers of the government, there will always ariſe ſuſpicion that private views are anſwered under the ſpecious pretext of public benefit; and we think it incumbent upon us not only to fulfil the ſtricteſt meaning of the Honourable the Court of Directors, but ſcrupulouſly to avoid whatever may carry the appearance of an evaſion of their orders.

We are farther of opinion, that *juſtice requires the privilege of making ſalt ſhould be * reſtored to thoſe perſons who formerly derived their ſubſiſtence from it, and who have no other means of providing for their families.* This can only be

* A plain confeſſion of the injuſtice of the monopoly eſtabliſhed in 1765.

done by adhering to the plan of the outlines ſketched out to you in our former letter upon this ſubject: which mode of carrying on the buſineſs we deſire you will *recommend*, in the ſtrongeſt terms, to the Nabob and his miniſters.

As the collecting duties at different chokeys might open a door for abuſe, and would at leaſt be productive of delays and obſtructions to trade, we likewiſe recommend, that the duties ſhall be collected at one eſtabliſhed chokey only, in every rout of trade; and that they be rated in the moſt equitable and moderate manner that can be deviſed: it being the ſole aim of our Honourable Maſters to diffuſe this article of life at the moſt reaſonable price amongſt the natives, in a way the moſt extenſively beneficial.

Incloſed in your letter under date of the 18th ult. we received bills for five lacks and a half, and the invoice of treaſure amounting to two lacks and a half more; the boats with which, the Preſident acquaints us, are ſafely arrived.

We remain, with great reſpect,

SIR,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervants,

Sept. 2, 1767. (Signed) H. VERELST,
JOHN CARTIER,
RICH. BECHER,
ALEX. CAMPBELL.

NUM. XXIX.

COPY of Proceedings at a Select Committee held at Calcutta, *on the* 17*th* November 1767, *relative to the Inland-trade, particularly that of the* French.

Fort William, the 17*th November* 1767.

At a Select Committee, preſent,

The Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident,
John Cartier,
Richard Becher, and
Alexander Campbell, Eſquires.

THE Preſident lays before the Committee the following extracts of letters to him from the Reſident at the *Durbar*.

Extract from Mr. Sykes's *letter*, 9*th* November 1767.

I think it highly neceſſary to obſerve to you, that Mr. Chevalier *appears to me to be aiming at carrying on a trade throughout the country*, on the ſame footing

ing that we do; and has eſtabliſhed gomaſtahs at many places for the purchaſe of rice, grain, and other articles, which they never before dealt in. If *the government's officers* will do their duty, theſe practices will be put a ſtop to; as I have requeſted of the Nabob to iſſue very clear directions to them on that ſubject. But ſhould their illicit practices, notwithſtanding, appear to gain ground, I ſhall certainly take notice of them to the Committee.

Extract from Mr. Sykes's *letter*, 10*th* November 1767.

I hinted to you, laſt night, my opinion relative to the encroaching diſpoſition of the *French*. I entirely agree with you, that they are endeavouring to undermine our trade in the moſt material points, and that nothing but the earlieſt precaution can check the progreſs of ſo growing an evil. I have received information, that Mr. *Chevalier* is now ſending up cloth, and God knows what other goods, under a *French* duſtuck, to *Banaras* with an *European* gentleman, a thing they have hitherto never practiſed; and indeed it is a trade which we hardly admit our own people to carry on. I learn alſo, that he has got a conſiderable footing at *Chilmary*, and in the *Aſſam* buſineſs; and that they have even ventured to interfere with the officers of the government in thoſe parts. Theſe practices, if put a ſtop to at firſt, may be quelled with little noiſe or difficulty; but if once they are eſtabliſhed into a cuſtom, the *French* will be too ready to found pretenſions which may bring on troubleſome and diſagreeable diſputes.

Agreed, we write the following letter to Mr. *Sykes* upon the above ſubject.

To Francis Sykes, Eſq; *Reſident at the* Durbar.

SIR,

The advices relative to the encroachments of the French, *which you have communicated to the Preſident in your letters of the 7th and* 10*th inſtant, are of very material conſequence* to the Company's intereſt. At the time, when their own ſervants are expreſly forbid the benefit of an inland-trade, and particularly that pernicious *circular traffick among the Aurungs, as contrary to the tenor of our Firmaun, oppreſſive of the natives, and deſtructive of the peace of the country.* It would be highly imprudent we ſhould remain ſilent ſpectators of the progreſs foreigners are making in the extenſion of their privileges.

The miniſters have long ſince publiſhed the orders given, at their own requeſt, by this Committee, for reſtraining the uſual trade among the *Aurungs*, in thoſe very articles which Mr. *Chevalier* is now purchaſing by his gomaſtahs.

We are therefore to deſire you will recommend, in the ſtrongeſt terms, to the miniſters, the putting an immediate ſtop to practices that muſt deeply affect the revenues, and in time fruſtrate all our endeavours for reſtoring to the natives all their natural rights. Foreigners muſt be confined *to the preciſe bounds of their trade in imports and exports, agreeable to the letter and ſpirit of their Firmauns.—In this manner the honourable Court of Directors have been pleaſed to conſtrue their own grant; and it never can be their intention, we ſhould encourage* in others thoſe benefits which they have prohibited to their own ſervants.

We have recommended to the Preſident, *the adjuſting with* Shetabroy, the moſt effectual means for reſtraining foreigners in illicit trade in the province of *Bahar*, *and ſtopping all boats* that ſhall attempt to paſs our frontier. Directions ſhall likewiſe be given to Mr. *Rumbold*, to have the ſtricteſt eye over them; it being much eaſier to correct theſe evils in their origin, than to remedy them after they have riſen to a dangerous height.

We are, SIR,
With great regard,
Your moſt obedient ſervants,
(Signed) HARRY VERELST,
JOHN CARTIER,
RICHARD BECHER,
ALEXANDER CAMPBELL.

Fort William,
the 17th Nov. 1767.

NUM. XXX.

EXTRACTS from a Letter written by the Court of Directors, to the Preſident and Council at Fort William, *in* Bengal. *Dated 20th* Nov. 1767.

Par. I. THE General Court of Proprietors taking under their conſideration the eminent ſervices of Lord *Clive*, did, on the 23d of *September* laſt, come to the following reſolution, *viz.*

" That this General Court, in conſideration of the important ſervices ren-
" dered to this Company by Lord *Clive*, do recommend it to, and impower
" the Court of Directors to make a grant, under the Company's ſeal, to
" Lord *Clive*, and his perſonal repreſentatives, of an additional term of ten
" years in his lordſhip's jagueer, commencing from the determination of his
" lordſhip's preſent right therein, provided the Company ſhall be in the poſ-
" ſeſſion of the lands out of which the jagueer iſſues, during ſuch additional
" term of ten years."

LIV. We are to inform you, that by the firſt agreement with Lord *Clive*, bearing date the 16th of *May* 1764, his lordſhip was to enjoy the jagueer of 222,958 *Sicca* rupees *per annum* for ten years, commencing from the 5th day of the ſaid *May* 1764, that is to ſay, to the 5th day of *May* 1774, if his lordſhip ſhould ſo long live; but in caſe of his lordſhip's deceaſe before the expiration of the ſaid ten years, then the ſaid jagueer was to ceaſe upon the day of his death. By the inſtrument now executed, in conſequence of the before-mentioned reſolution of the General Court, the ſaid jagueer is to be paid Lord *Clive*, his executors, adminiſtrators, or aſſigns, during the term of ten years, to commence, and be computed from the ſaid 5th *May* 1774, in caſe Lord *Clive* ſhould be then living; or otherwiſe, in caſe Lord *Clive* ſhall happen to die before the ſaid 5th day of *May* 1774, then to commence

from and immediately after his death, and payment to be continued to his executors, adminiſtrators, or aſſigns, for ten years, from the day of his death, and no longer; to be made every year by quarterly payments at *Fort William*, provided the Company are in actual poſſeſſion of the lands out of which the ſaid jagueer iſſues. But for a more particular information of the ſaid grant, we refer you to a copy of the original inſtrument under the Company's ſeal, herewith ſent; in order for your conforming to the ſeveral terms and conditions therein contained, as far as relates to you.

LXXXVIII. We have taken your plan for conducting the ſalt-trade, as contained in your proceedings of the 8th *September* 1766, into our moſt ſerious conſideration; and having reviſed all that we and you have wrote on the ſubject of the inland-trade in general, and of ſalt in particular, we are the more convinced of the abſolute neceſſity of excluding all perſons whatſoever, excepting the natives only, from being concerned therein. And we accordingly hereby ratify and confirm the orders we gave in our letters of the 19th *February* and 17th *May* 1766, that no Company's ſervant, free merchant, or any *European* ſhall, in any mode or ſhape whatever, either by themſelves or agents, directly, or indirectly, trade in, or be concerned in carrying on an inland-trade in ſalt, beetle-nut, tobacco, or in any other articles produced and conſumed in the country. And ſuch trade is hereby abſolutely aboliſhed, and put an end to, agreeable to our before-mentioned orders. And further, if any of the before-deſcribed perſons ſhall, directly, or indirectly, carry on, or be concerned in ſuch inland-trade, or in farming the callaries, or making ſalt, if a Company's ſervant, he is to be immediately diſmiſſed the Company's ſervice, and from all others, the Company's protection is to be forthwith * withdrawn.

(Signed)

THO. ROUS,
THO. SAUNDERS,
GEO. DUDLEY,
PERE. CUST,
HENRY SAVAGE,
ROB. JONES,
JOHN MANSHIP,
F. W. BARRINGTON,
LUKE SCRAFTON,
JOHN ROBERTS,
J. PARDOE,
JOHN STEVENSON,
J. CRESWICKE,
G. COLEBROOKE,
JAMES COCKBURNE,
BEN. BOOTH,
E. H. CRUTTENDEN,
GEO. WOMBWELL,
EDWARD WHEELER,
WILL. SNELL,
HENRY CRAB BOULTON.

* If the Court of Directors really affixed any meaning to theſe directions of withdrawing protection, it muſt have been, either to deprive their fellow-ſubjects of the benefit of the laws of their country, or to deliver them over to their tool of a Nabob, for impriſonment, fine, corporal puniſhment, or death.

Num.

Num. XXXI.

COPY of a Letter from the Court of East India *Directors, to the Preſident and Select Committee at* Bengal. *Dated the 20th* November *1767.*

Our Preſident and Select Committee at *Fort William*, in *Bengal*.

Par. I. WE are ſo confined in time, by the diſpatch of this ſhip, that we cannot enter into your proceedings at large, but ſhall touch only on a few important points relative to your political ſyſtem.

II. Lord *Clive*'s letter, entered on your proceedings of the 16th *January* laſt, coincides in general with our ſentiments.

III. The upholding the dignity of the Nabob, and *carrying on the government in his name, and under his authority, and never appearing as principals yourſelves* in any manner relative to the adminiſtration of the government.

IV. Not to increaſe the revenues by any way which may oppreſs the inhabitants, whoſe happineſs and proſperity we are deſirous of cultivating upon every occaſion; as it is upon their affections and confidence the permanency of our poſſeſſions will greatly depend.

V. Never to extend your poſſeſſions beyond their preſent bounds.

VI. Never to engage in a march to *Dehly*, nor enter into an offenſive war, unleſs urged to it in purſuance of our treaty with the King and *Sujah al Dowlah*, for the preſervation of their dominions; and whenever called upon to march any troops for that purpoſe, to have *Illahabad*, *Chunar*, or ſome fortification put in our poſſeſſion.

VII. If theſe rules are ſtrictly adhered to, we ſhall flatter ourſelves, our power and advantages in *Bengal* will obtain that permanency we have ſo long laboured at.

VIII. We have paid much attention to your negociations with *Janogee*, for ſettling the *chout* on the terms agreed between the *Marahtahs* and *Allaverdy Khawn*. We think it both equity and ſound policy to pay them their *chout*; and ſhall much approve it, if it can be done on the terms you mention, of their ceding to us their poſſeſſions in *Oriſſa*; which would join our *Bengal* poſſeſſions to the *Sircars*, and would afford us the means of preventing any hoſtile attempts of any *European* enemy, who might land in that part of *Oriſſa*.

IX. We have only to add on this ſubject, to caution you to be very certain that you treat with the ſupreme *Marahtah* chief, ſo that we may not, after a treaty is concluded, hear of claims from any other branch of the *Marahtah* power: for we are apprehenſive, that although *Cuttack* may form part of *Janogee*'s government, yet poſſibly his power of making treaties or ceſſions of any part of his government may be called in queſtion by the *Saboo Rajah*.

X. You

X. You did well to diſpatch the *Mercury* to us, with the news of the *Afghan* King's return; taking it for granted, that you thought your information of his return was beyond a doubt.

XI. Your plan of operations on this important event, as laid down in your letter of inſtructions to Colonel *Smith*, appears to us to have been in general very proper.

XII. You judged very right in ſhunning an alliance with the *Marahtahs*. You alſo judged right in your reſolution to quit your connexions with the King and *Sujah al Dowlah*, if you found them entering into connexions inconſiſtent with their engagements to us, and your reſolution not to ſuffer the firſt brigade to paſs the *Caramnaſſa*. But it is with great concern we find you propoſed to raiſe a body of horſe.

XIII. In this reſolution you ſeem to have forgot our ſentiments, expreſſed in our letter of the 26th *April* 1765, on the ſubject of the Mogul cavalry, entertained in our ſervice in the war againſt *Sujah al Dowlah*, which were an expence almoſt equal to the reſt of the army and proved of no ſervice in action.

XIV. If we are to act in concert with *Sujah al Dowlah*, we preſume we can rely on his cavalry for the purpoſe of ſecuring our convoys. If we do not act in concert with him, our troops ought not to paſs the *Caramnaſſa*; and if they are to act in *Bengal* only, we conceive rivers ſecure our convoys, and cavalry will be of little uſe. We perſuade ourſelves you will have countermanded your orders to Colonel *Smith* to raiſe cavalry, as ſoon as you heard of the *Abdalla*'s retreat.

XV. Our final ſentiments are, that we have no occaſion to take any meaſures againſt the *Afghan* King, if it ſhould appear he comes only to raiſe contributions. But if he proceeds to the eaſtward of *Dehly*, to make an attack on your allies, or threatens the peace of *Bengal*, you will concert ſuch meaſures with *Sujah al Dowlah*, as may appear beſt adapted for your mutual defence; always obſerving to keep within the bounds of a defenſive war.

XVI. From what appears on your proceedings, we think we diſcern too great an aptneſs to confederacies, or alliances with the *Indian* powers; on which occaſion, we muſt give it you as a general ſentiment, that perfidy is too much the characteriſtick of *Indian* Princes, for us to rely on any ſecurity with them. But ſhould you enter into a treaty to act in concert with them in the field, one of our principal officers is to command the whole. A pre-eminence our own ſecurity, and our ſuperior military ſkill will intitle us to.

We are, your loving friends,

London, 20*th November* 1767.

(Signed)

THO. ROUS,
THO. SAUNDERS,
GEO. DUDLEY,
PERE. CUST,
HENRY SAVAGE,
ROB. JONES,
JOHN MANSHIP,
F. W. BARRINGTON,
LUKE SCRAFTON,
JOHN ROBERTS,
WILLIAM SNELL,
J. PARDOE,
HEN. CRAB BOULTON,
JOHN STEPHENSON,
J. CRESWICKE,
EDWARD WHEELER,
G. COLEBROOKE,
JAMES COCKBURN,
BEN. BOOTH,
E. H. CRUTTENDEN,
GEO. WOMBWELL.

NUM. XXXII.

COPY of Proceedings at a Select Committee held at Calcutta, *on the 29th of* December 1767, *containing Regulations and Reſtrictions of the Inland-trade.*

Fort William, the 29th December 1767.

At a Select Committee, preſent,

The Right Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident,
John Cartier,
Richard Becher, and
Charles Floyer, Eſquires.

READ two letters from Mr. *Sykes*, under dates the 25th *ultimo*, and 13th inſtant; the former of which is entered on our proceedings of *November* the 29th, with a ſet of regulations tranſmitted, for the carrying on the trade in future throughout theſe provinces.

The Committee taking into ſerious conſideration the above ſet of regulations, have thought proper to make ſome amendments and additions to them.

Ordered, They be entered hereafter, in the manner now reſtified, and a copy thereof be tranſmitted to the Reſident at the *Durbar*, with the following letter.

To Francis Sykes, *Eſq*; *Reſident at the* Durbar.

SIR,

We have been favoured with your letters of the 25th *ultimo*, and 13th inſtant.

On peruſal of the ſet of regulations circulated *by the miniſters* to the zemindars and officers of the government, which you tranſmitted to us, with the former of thoſe letters, we have judged it neceſſary to make ſome amendment and additions to them; which you will pleaſe to communicate to the government, and requeſt that the accompanying regulations be ſubſtituted by them in lieu of thoſe you adviſe us have been already iſſued.

We are ſorry to obſerve, in thoſe regulations, you have made the honourable Company coadjutors to the government; whereas it has ever been our intention to acknowledge the latter as principals, and to content ourſelves with enjoying our privileges under them, in like manner with the other European *nations trading in* Bengal. *This we now repeat; and deſire that you do by no means, in future, make the Company appear as a principal in any meaſure or act of government.*

In conſequence of the new lights we obtained from your laſt letter, we deemed Captain *Cummings* to be equally deſerving of his former rank, as

Major

Major *Hill* and Captain *Mackenzie*, and have therefore, in juſtice to that gentleman, reſtored him to it.

We are, with eſteem,
SIR,
Your moſt obedient humble ſervants,
(Signed) H. VERELST,
JOHN CARTIER,
RICHARD BECHER,
CHARLES FFLOYER.

Fort William,
the 29th Dec. 1767.

Regulations to be circulated by the miniſters, to the Zemindars and officers of the government.

1ſt, *That they are to ſuffer no gomaſtahs whatever to reſide in the diſtricts within their juriſdiction*, BUT SUCH AS ARE EMPOWERED, BY HAVING PERWANAHS FROM THE GOVERNOR.

2dly, That no gomaſtahs are to buy or ſell, but ſuch articles as are ſpecified in their perwânahs, and thoſe with the conſent and free will of the *Ryots*; and by no means to uſe force or compulſion in the proſecution of their buſineſs. That in caſe any gomaſtahs do buy or ſell ſuch articles as are not ſpecified in their perwânahs, or do collect grain and other neceſſaries of life to ſell again on the ſpot, or any ways oppreſs or ill uſe the *Ryots*, the officers of the government are required to exert their authority to ſuppreſs ſuch abuſes; and in caſe of any diſobedience, or non-compliance on the part of the gomaſtahs, they are to repreſent the ſame to the miniſters, who will cauſe exemplary puniſhment to be inflicted.

3dly, That the trade in ſalt, beetle-nut, and tobacco is, in future, to be carried on by ſuch merchants only as are natives of the country; and as a ſtated duty will be collected on thoſe articles, before a *Rowannah* is given for their proceeding from the place of the purchaſe, no further collections, whether of *Mangon*, or other cuſtoms, are to be made thereon; in order, that from the ſale of the merchants goods to the conſumption of the poor, there may be no cauſe of enhancement in the price. Alſo, that as ſeveral merchants have bought large quantities of ſalt from the Committee of Trade, it is proper that no one do impede them in the diſpoſal thereof, or make any demands for duties, either from the buyer or ſeller.

4thly, That the *Engliſh*, *French*, *Dutch*, and other foreigners are, by the *Nazim*, forbidden to traffic in ſalt, beetle-nut, and tobacco; they are alſo forbidden to trade in grain, and other articles, eſſential for the immediate neceſſaries of life, except for the conſumption of the inhabitants reſiding in their ſettlements, under their protection. The intentions of the *Nizamut* reſpecting the licenſed trade of the *Engliſh*, *French*, and *Dutch* companies, are relative only to cotton, ſilk, and ſuch other goods as are exported from this country to foreign parts. That whenever any gomaſtahs, taking the names of the *Engliſh*, *French*, and *Dutch* companies, do carry on trade in unlicenſed articles, it is the duty of the officers of the government to ſeize and ſend them to the city; but that whilſt their people carry on ſuch buſi-

neſs only as is allowed of, and has of old been cuſtomary, behaving themſelves peaceably and quietly, and without oppreſſion towards the *Ryots*, their commerce is to be ſupported, and no impediments thrown in their way.

5thly, That as the freedom and circulation of trade are the means of giving bread to the induſtrious inhabitants, and the manufactures of cloth and ſilk, the employment of the poor, and the ſale of their grain, and the product of their lands, enable the *Ryots* to pay their rents and ſupport their families; it is proper that the officers of the government do afford every neceſſary encouragement and protection, as well to the merchants and traders of the country, as to ſuch gomaſtahs who are furniſhed with perwânahs under the above reſtrictions, and carry on their trade with the conſent and free-will of the *Ryots*; and that whoſoever of the aumils and zemindars is found deficient therein, they will be made anſwerable for it in the ſevereſt manner.

6thly, That no *European* nations ſhall be permitted to eſtabliſh new factories, *or any* European *to go into the country, and carry on a traffic, without the expreſs permiſſion of the government*, under pain of confiſcation of all ſuch goods as he may be thus trafficking with.

7thly, That it being the deſire of the *Nazim* to prefer, before all things, the good order and well governing of theſe provinces, theſe regulations are eſtabliſhed, in order that the poor may be relieved from oppreſſion and vexation, and the merchants enabled to carry on their trade with freedom; which are the means of wealth to the country, and benefit to its inhabitants. It is therefore required, that the ſtricteſt obedience be paid to this perwânah, and that it be regiſtered in the public *Cutcherry*, and circulated to all the leſſer zemindars and aumils, that whenever any diſputes or diſturbances ſhall happen with gomaſtahs, or others, recourſe may be had hereto, and deciſion given accordingly.

NUM. XXXIII.

A literal Tranſlation from the Bengal *Language of a Narrative of the Treatment received, in the Month of* December 1767, *by* Kriſno Paul Koomar, *and others, Weavers and Brokers, from the Chief and other Servants of the* Engliſh *Factory at* Dacca.

"MY name is *Kriſno Paul Koomar*. I am both a *Pykâr* (an underbroker) and a weaver; and my houſe is near the *French* factory. *Doranidor Battochargea* engaged me to make ready-money purchaſes of coarſe cloth for him, and to act as his *Aſſorter*; which I agreed to, becauſe I was informed his purchaſes were made on the account of Mr. *Alexander*. *Battochargea* likewiſe engaged the *Dallal Nittoo* to act as his head-broker, and advanced

advanced him money on account. In the month of *Pous* 1174 (*December* 1767) I carried to *Bottochargea*'s houſe, for the firſt time, four pieces of *biſſooty-dooreas*, and one piece of *tangebs*, and at another time five pieces more. On the 20th day of *Pous*, the broker, *Nittoo*, delivered two hundred and fifty pieces of cloth to *Battochargea*, and on that very night, a *hirkarah* (a ſpy) carried this intelligence to the Governor and Second of the *Engliſh* factory at *Dacca*. On the next morning, the Governor twice ſent peons for *Battochargea*, and, when he was brought into his preſence, queſtioned him concerning the number of pieces of cloth he had got; which *Battochargea* ſaid were about ten pieces, and no more. In the mean time, without the knowledge of *Battochargea*, the Governor ſent his people, with about thirty of the Company's ſeapoys, to *Battochargea*'s houſe; where they ſeized and beat his ſervants, took their keys from them, opened his *godown* (or warehouſe) and took out the two hundred and fifty pieces of cloth, together with the five pieces which I had delivered, and ſent the whole to the Company's factory. Upon ſeeing this confuſion I ran to the *French* factory, fell at the Chief's feet, and begged that he would impriſon me, as a dependant of their factory, in order to protect me; which he accordingly did. Twenty peons were ſent to the broker *Nittoo*'s houſe, where they ſeized him, carried him to the factory, and there confined him, with irons of fifteen ſeers weight on his feet, for the ſpace of eleven days; during which time he was obliged to pay twenty-five rupees *per* day, for the expences of the peons.—When it was known, that I was confined in the *French* factory, peons were ſent to my houſe, where they ſeized and beat my brother, while other parties of peons were ſent to the houſes of all my other relations. Upon hearing this, I repreſented to the *French* Chief, that my relations would be ruined on my account; and therefore, at my requeſt, he ſent me, under charge of four peons, to the *Dewán Beecon Taccoor*, with a meſſage, deſiring that, after he had done with me, he would return me to the *French* factory, as being one of their dependants. *Beecon Taccoor* told the peons, it was only a miſtake about ſome cloth, whereupon the peons left me with him; but as ſoon as they were gone, I was ſeized and flogged, and afterwards carried to the factory, where I was confined for eleven days, during which time I was obliged to give the peons forty-nine rupees and two pieces of cloth.—They did not fine me, but by the Governor's order (as *Beecon Taccoor* ſaid) they ſhaved off my * *Teeky*, put me on an ox, with lime and ink on my face, and led me about the town of *Dacca*; particularly about the market called *Nabobpore*, where all the brokers and *Pykars* live, that I might be ſeen by them. I was ſtill for three days impriſoned; and afterwards the Governor ſent me, under charge of five ſeapoys and ſeven other perſons, to the Nabob of *Dacca*. When I was carried into the palace before the Nabob, I there found a Mogul, one of my friends, who being ſurprized to find I was not yet at li-

* *Teeky* is a lock growing from the crown of the head, in the manner of the *Chineſe*. The *Hindoos* ſuffer no other hair to grow on their heads, from a religious principle. The ſhaving of the *Teeky*, putting lime on one, and ink on the other ſide of a man's face, and thus leading him about on an ox or aſs, is one of the moſt ignominious puniſhments that can be inflicted on a *Hindoo*.

berty, ſaid he would apply to the Nabob on my behalf. The *Vakeel* who carried me before the Nabob ſaid, "Sir, the Governor has ſent this man to "you, to be confined in the *Cutcherry*." The Nabob, after making himſelf fully acquainted with the whole of my caſe, anſwered the Governor's people, "This man has no fault, if I confine him, I muſt anſwer for it to "God. Give my compliments to the Governor, and tell him this man is "puniſhed without a crime." The Nabob afterwards ſent a man with me to the Governor, who thereupon releaſed me.

"*Doranidor Battochargea* was neither beat, impriſoned, or fined; only the ſeapoys went and ill treated his people. But the broker, *Nittoo*, was confined for eleven days, and made to pay a great deal of money. *Anunderam Daſs* got from 5000 to 7000 rupees, and *Beecon Taccoor* alſo got a conſiderable ſum.

NUM. XXXIV.

COPY of a Letter from the Court of East India *Directors to the Preſident and Select Committee at* Calcutta. *Dated the 12th* January 1768; *ordering 500,000 l. to be remitted home in Specie.*

Our Preſident and Select Committee at *Fort William*, in *Bengal*.

I. FROM the beſt eſtimate we can make, and the information received, of the ſtate of our affairs at *Bengal*, we have reaſon to think, that, if the preſent tranquillity remains undiſturbed, there will be a very large balance in your treaſury. It is our earneſt wiſh that the whole could be inveſted and ſent home in goods: but as we cannot expect ſo ſudden an extenſion of our inveſtment, *we are come to a reſolution to have five hundred thouſand pounds brought home in ſpecie* by the return of the ſhips now under diſpatch from hence.

II. But as this reſolution is founded on the expectation that you will have a large ſum in balance, we mean the execution of it to depend on the ſtate of your ſeveral treaſuries. You are to ſet apart the uſual remittance to *China* and the other ſettlements, and make the uſual advances for the largeſt inveſtment you can expect to make, and *reſerve a million in the treaſury*, to anſwer all the exigencies of government: and if after theſe neceſſary reſerves there ſhould ſtill remain five hundred thouſand pounds, the ſame is to be ſent us in ſpecie; but no greater ſum, although the balance in your treaſury ſhould exceed it.

III. We ſhall endeavour to procure and ſend you this ſeaſon an aſſay of the different mohurs and rupees, and this will direct you which it will be moſt eligible

gible to make the remittance in: if the loſs on remittance is equal, we ſhould prefer gold to ſilver.

IV. We have attended to your opinions in various parts of your letters and conſultations, of the inconveniencies that may reſult from the draining the country of it's ſpecie: but as *ſpecie laying dead in the treaſury is equally locked up* from circulation as if brought home, we do not ſee how the country can be injured by it; and you muſt therefore uſe your beſt endeavours to remove any ill-grounded apprehenſions that the natives may conceive from this neceſſary meaſure; and the only means to prevent the repetition of it is to exert yourſelves in increaſing the inveſtment, that alone can circulate the money we receive in revenues. It is neceſſary *this meaſure ſhould be kept as ſecret as poſſible*, to prevent any advantage that may be made in buying up the gold, if it ſhould be thought eligible to prefer that to ſilver: and you muſt divide the riſk between the Coaſt and Bay ſhips as equally as poſſible.

We are, your loving friends,

(Signed) F. W. BARRINGTON, WILLIAM SNELL,
J. CRESWICKE, THOMAS ROUS,
BEN. BOOTH, THO. SAUNDERS,
J. PARDOE, GEORGE DUDLEY.
PETER DU CANE Jun. JOHN ROBERTS,
JA. COCKBURN, LUKE SCRAFTON,
PERE. CUST, GEORGE WOMBWELL,
EDW. WHELER, G. COLEBROOKE,
ROBERT JONES, E. H. CRUTTENDEN,
JOHN STEPHENSON, H. CRABB BOULTON,
GEORGE CUMING, HENRY SAVAGE.

London, the 12th January, 1768.

NUM. XXXV.

COPY of an Account-current, from Mr. Francis Sykes, *of Money collected from the Natives of* Bengal, *for the Purpoſe of paying off certain out-ſtanding Balances. Dated* Murſhedabad, *the 31ſt* January 1768.

Dr.

Dr. OUTSTANDING BALANCES

1765		
Oct. 16.	To cash collected and received on this account, as *per* particulars in the account drawn out from 10th *April* to 16th *October* 1765, -	6,99,324 . 3 . 2
1766		
April 10.	To ditto received in part, as *per* treasury account from 1st to 10th *April* 1766, . . .	2,06,976 . 7 . 13
1767	To ditto received in part, as *per* monthly treasury accounts of the following months:	
	February, ... 73,575 . 13 . 14 . 3	
	From 1st to 10th *Apr.* 1,34,590 . 2 . 16 . 3	
		2,07,966 . 0 . 11
	Sicca rupees, . . .	11,14,266 . 11 . 8

Murshedabad, 31*st January* 1768.

Errors excepted,

(Signed) FRANCIS SYKES.

From the 16th *October* 1765, to the 31st *Jan.* 1768.

		Cr.
1765		
Dec. 31.	By ſalt balances paid the * gentlemen of *Chittigong* and *Dacca*, account of their ſalt balances; the Nabob *Meer Jaffier* having † undertaken to make good all ſuch arrears, in conſequence of their being ordered to relinquiſh this commerce, by the Governor and Council, ...	25,000 . - . -
1766		
Sept. 30.	By ditto, ditto, ditto, ...	61,454 . 8 . -
1767		
April 10.	By Nabob *Jaffier Ally Khawn*, arrears paid to his ſeapoys *by the miniſters*, which was due to them, being in part, ...	2,00,174 . 12 . 15
Sept. 30.	By ditto, ditto, ditto, ...	1,55,000 . - . -
Oct. 31.	By Mr. *George Williamſon*, paid the balance due to him from a contract for ſalt with the government, as *per orders from the Select Committee*, ...	15,126 . 15 . -
1768		
Jan. 31.	By Nabob *Jaffier Ally Khawn*, arrears paid to his ſeapoys *by the miniſters*, which was due to them, being in part, ...	1,61,000 . - . -
	By ditto, ditto, ditto, balance of arrears due to his ſeapoys, which ſhall be paid within a few days, ...	8,094 . 5 . -
		6,25,850 . 8 . 15
	By balance due to the Dewannee, ...	4,88,416 . 2 . 13
	Sicca rupees, ...	11,14,266 . 11 . 8

* The proportions which had been eſtabliſhed by theſe gentlemen, for carrying on their joint trade at *Dacca* and *Chittigong*, were as follow:

At *Dacca* Factory.		At *Chittigong*.	
The Chief Mr. *John Cartier* . .	5 ¾	The Chief Mr. *Verelſt*, ...	7
The ſecond in Council, . . .	4 ¾	The ſecond, ...	5
The third, ...	3 ½	The third, ...	3
The fourth, ...	2	The fourth, ...	1
Shares, . . .	16	Shares, . . .	16

† *Query*, Where does this engagement appear, with whom, when, and by what authority was it made?

NUM. XXXVI.

COPY of a Letter from the Court of East India *Directors, to the President and Select Committee at* Calcutta. *Dated the* 16*th* March 1768.

Our Preſident and Select Committee at *Fort William*, in *Bengal*.

. . . . . .

PAR. I. WE have wrote you before this ſeaſon, under dates the 21ſt of *November* laſt and 12th *January*; a triplicate of the letter is now ſent by the ſhip *Ankerwyke*.

II. Thoſe advices contained only ſome general inſtructions and directions more immediately neceſſary. We now proceed to make ſuch further obſervations on your advices received this ſeaſon, and give ſuch additional directions for the management of the important affairs which will fall under your department, as we ſhall find neceſſary.

III. It is with great pleaſure we ſee an appearance of peace and tranquillity eſtabliſhed in the provinces, and that the *Abdallah*'s return gives us the proſpect of their being undiſturbed another year.

IV. Our principal doubts now ariſe from the nature of our connexions with *Sujah al Dowlah* and the King: on which we have little more to ſay than in general, to approve the inſtructions left by Lord *Clive*.

V. As all our views and expectations are confined within the *Caramnaſſa*, we are impatient to hear our troops are recalled from *Illahabad*. The reaſon for their remaining there no longer ſubſiſts, as *Sujah al Dowlah* has now had three years to repleniſh his coffers and recruit his army, and muſt be ſuppoſed to be in a ſtate of defence againſt any country-powers who may invade him: therefore we ſee no neceſſity for farther connexion between us than what may ariſe from the ſecond article of the treaty, by which we are to march to his aſſiſtance, at his expence, when his dominions are invaded. And with reſpect to the King, the ſame reaſon ſubſiſts for our not continuing the brigade at *Illahabad*, ſo that *Sujah al Dowlah*, as his vizier, muſt ſupport, and protect him. We therefore hope, that the next advices will be, that you have recalled that brigade; or, if very ſufficient reaſons are not aſſigned for continuing them, we ſhall deem you accountable for all the conſequences it may be productive of.

VI. As it ſeems not impoſſible that *Sujah al Dowlah* may undertake to eſcort the King to *Dehly*, it becomes neceſſary we ſhould give you our idea of the proper conduct to be held on that occaſion, which intirely coincides with Lord *Clive*'s opinion, in his letter to the Select Committee, that to march any part of our army on ſuch an expedition might bring on the total ruin of our affairs. And we add, that ſhould you be perſuaded into ſo raſh and dangerous a meaſure, we ſhall deem you reſponſible for all the conſequences: and as ſuch a meaſure would be attended with the greateſt danger to our affairs;

fairs; be aſſured we ſhall be extremely jealous of every one high in our ſervice, civil or military, who ſhews a tendency to ſuch an expedition.

VII. The treaty entered into with the *Subahdar* of the *Deckan* by our ſervants at *Fort St. George*, and the tendency of your negociation with the country-powers on the approach of the *Abdallah*, gave occaſion to the ſhort remark we made on ſuch treaties and alliances in our letter to you of the 20th *November* laſt. We now repeat our diſapprobation of ſuch alliances, which we think no circumſtance in our affairs can require; and determined as we are, not to aim at any power or poſſeſſion but *what we hold in virtue of the Mogul's grants*, and what ariſe from the office of Dewannee, and conſequently are confined within the boundaries of *Bengal*, *Bahar*, and *Oriſſa*, we truſt our own force will always ſuffice for the protection and defence of theſe. Should they not, foreign aſſiſtance will avail us very little. The experience of all the country-wars we have been engaged in, evinces how little advantage is to be derived from the country-troops in a general action, who rather crowd upon us for protection, than afford us any advantage over the enemy: and never fail to quit their allies, and make peace at their expence, whenever the iſſue grows precarious.

VIII. We entirely diſapprove the idea adopted, of ſupporting the Subah of the *Deckan*, as a barrier againſt the *Marahtahs*. It is for the contending parties to eſtabliſh a balance of power among themſelves. Their diviſions are our ſecurity: and if the *Marahtahs* moleſt us, you muſt conſider whether an attack from *Bombay*, which being near the capital of their dominions, may not be preferable to any defenſive operations with the country-powers on your ſide of *India*.

IX. The honourable manner in which *Sujah al Dowlah* had diſcharged his treaty, gives us hopes that the alliance between us will continue inviolable and operate to our mutual advantage.

X. We heard with concern of the death of the Nabob *Najim al Dowlah*, and direct you to tender our compliments of condolence to the preſent Nabob *Seyf al Dowlah*, and our congratulations on his acceſſion, and on his confirmation by the King, with aſſurance of our approbation of the treaty entered into with him, and our inviolable attachment to him and his family.

XI. You ſhould have been more minute in the detail of the circumſtances attending the Nabob's death, it having been publicly aſſerted here, that he was poiſoned. You ſhould alſo have informed us what family he left, and all the facts relative to his death or the ſucceſſion of his brother, ſhould have been on your records. All the forms of proclamation, and the acknowledgment of his ſucceſſor ſhould alſo be recorded, as an example to future times: the obſervance of ſuch forms being very eſſential to the ſtability of government.

XII. As the reduction of the ſtipend to the Nabob ariſes from taking off the pay of an unneceſſary number of his ſeapoys, and does not affect the allowance for the ſupport of his dignity in the government, we approve of what you have done in it: but we direct you never to reduce the

ſtipend lower; being extremely deſirous that he ſhould have ſufficient to ſupport his public character, and appear *reſpectable to his ſubjects and to foreigners*.

XIII. We approve of the agreement you made, jointly with the Nabob, to diſcharge the debt due from the Government to the *Seats*; that family, who have ſuffered ſo much in our cauſe, are peculiarly intitled to our protection.

XIV. Colonel *Hector Munro* having repreſented to us that, after the battle of *Banaras*, the Mogul deſired him to accept of a jagueer upon *Bengal*, of one lack of rupees *per annum* for his life, and had wrote to the Nabob *Meer Jaffier* to pay the ſame; but that the Colonel, on acquainting Governor *Spencer* of the tranſaction, finding that the keeping of the jagueer would give offence to the Company, generouſly gave up the ſame to the Nabob, who thereupon deſired the Colonel's acceptance of two lacks of rupees, and ſaid he would ſend it to him at *Calcutta*, before his departure for *Europe*, which was not done; alſo further alleging, that *Najim al Dowlah*, the ſon and ſucceſſor to *Jaffier Ally Khawn*, had, in a letter of thanks for the Colonel's ſervices, agreed to fulfil the engagements of his late father, and actually ſent him a note for one lack of the money, and a promiſe of the remainder: and the Colonel, therefore, deſiring us to order payment of the ſaid two lacks to him, we do, in conſideration of his great ſervices to the Company and the Nabob *Meer Jaffier*, during his command of the army in *Bengal*, recommend it to you to uſe your good offices, to prevail on the preſent Nabob to fulfil the ſaid engagements of his deceaſed father and brother.—But we cannot help remarking with ſurprize, that neither your advices or proceedings give us any lights concerning this tranſaction; the only information received being in the incloſed extract of a letter to us from the late Governor *Spencer*, dated the 25th *September* 1765.

XV. The forms eſtabliſhed by Lord *Clive* at the ſolemnity of the *Poonea* ſhould be in future obſerved: and when the Governor is not preſent, the Reſident at the *Durbar* muſt repreſent the King's Dewan.

XVI. You have neglected to ſend home the correſpondence of the Reſident at the *Durbar*, which you will take care not to omit in future, it being in them we ſhall expect to ſee the minute detail of all the tranſactions, in virtue of the office of Dewan.

XVII. We are very well pleaſed with your attention to our intereſt, in increaſing the revenues of the *Calcutta* lands. Yet at the ſame time we muſt repeat our directions, that having once nearly aſcertained the value of theſe, or any other lands, you ſhould let them on long leaſes, leſt new demands ſhould give riſe to new oppreſſions.

XVIII. We are very well ſatisfied with the collections of the revenues at *Burdwan*. We obſerve you have recalled the Council eſtabliſhed there, except one ſervant. We take it for granted you found it neceſſary to leave him there; yet his office requires ſome explanation, as we do not ſee what uſe he is of, the Adminiſtration being intirely in the hands of the *Rajah*, who having executed his Kiſtbundee, has nothing more to do than to pay in the amount at the appointed periods.

XIX.

XIX. We do not very well underſtand your notice for conſenting to advance money to the *Midnapore* Zemindars for the cultivation of their lands. If it is to be applied to the cultivation of waſte, or the improvement of poor lands, it may be very right, becauſe it will ultimately tend to the increaſe of the revenues; but we fear it may open a door to bad debts and chicanery.

XX. We obſerve, with pleaſure, Mr. *Graham*'s aſſiduity in inveſtigating the ſtate of the provinces of *Midnapore* and *Jellaſore*; and hope you have turned your attention to the applying proper remedies to the diſtreſſes of theſe provinces, ariſing from the overflowings of the rivers and the want of hands for cultivation. The banking of the rivers is an object of ſuch public utility as merits your countenance. You will therefore do well to advance the money to the Rajahs, or Zemindars, neceſſary for that purpoſe: or do it on the Company's account, conditionally, that the rent ſhall be raiſed in proportion. By this aſſiſtance, and by letting the uncultivated lands on talooks, or long leaſes, induſtry will be left to its free courſe, and we imagine population will follow.

XXI. We are very glad that *Mahommed Reza Khawn* has acquitted himſelf ſo much to your ſatisfaction. Aſſure him of our approbation and protection: and of the ſenſe we entertain of his ſervices.

XXII. We approve of the eſtabliſhment you have made of twelve lacks for ſalaries to the miniſters, whom we wiſh to maintain the ſame rank and dignity that was annexed to their ſtations in former times. But as this is allotted them on condition that they relinquiſh all the perquiſites and emoluments annexed to their offices, we expect to ſee that they are duly brought to *the Government's credit*, and appear as ſuch in the reſident's account.

XXIII. We do not approve the permitting the miniſters to hold lands on their own account; it being a contradiction, in the nature of their office, that they ſhould hold thoſe countries over which themſelves are eſtabliſhed a check and controul: and therefore we think the permitting *Mahommed Reza Khawn* to hold the Nabobſhip of *Dacca* is improper.

XXIV. We have no reaſon to ſuſpect that the province of *Dacca* is not let to the beſt advantage, yet we cannot avoid taking notice of your omitting to reply to an obſervation we made in our letter of the 19th *February* 1766, on the diſpute between the late Nabob *Meer Jaffier*, and *Mahommed Reza Khawn*, on the deficiency in the *Dacca* revenues: and we are farther to remark, that in an eſtimate of the revenues in our poſſeſſion, copy of which is a number in the packet, the province of *Dacca* is eſtimated at rupees 2,513,867. The expences of the collections are alſo higher than any other province: upon the whole, we think this ſubject merits an inquiry.

XXV. We expect to hear a rigorous ſcrutiny was made into the great deficiency in the revenues of *Dinagepore*, and that the rank, or importance of the offender have not exempted him from juſtice.

XXVI. We are deſirous to have the ſecurity of property as much eſtabliſhed in the provinces, as the nature of the government and diſpoſition of the people will admit of. With this view, we wiſh to ſee as much of the ſpirit of our laws of inheritance adopted, by the country Government, as can be made agreeable to them: particularly, that they ſhould relax from

the power of ſeizing the effects of thoſe who die without children, alſo adopting the right of bequeathing by will. Theſe, we conceive, would be the beſt means of diſcouraging the ſecret hoarding of money; and of eſtabliſhing a right in the ſubject to their property. You will be the beſt judges how far this can be done conſiſtent with the claims of the Rajahs and Landholders, and the eſtabliſhed cuſtom of the country.

XXVII. We do not altogether agree with Lord *Clive* in the neceſſity of the Governor's making an annual tour of the provinces. The Majeſty and dignity of the government ſtill reſides in the Nabob and his miniſters: and they only are known to the inhabitants, as the power to whom they are accountable. Any great violence or oppreſſion will moſt probably reach the ear of the reſident at the *Durbar*, who can immediately exerciſe his influence to get them redreſſed. But if the Governor carries with him, in his tour, the authority of the ſtate, *it gives the ſubject the idea of a divided government.* If, nevertheleſs, it is found neceſſary, we expect it ſhall be made without oſtentation, or an expenſive parade.

XXVIII. We remark, with pleaſure, the increaſe of the revenue, as ſpecified in the ſtatement received by the *Cruttenden*: but though it is clear ſo far as it goes, it does not come up to our expectation, and therefore you muſt ſtrictly conform to our former orders.

XXIX. There is not in this account, nor can we any where trace the outſtanding balances. We find only one entry of them in the reſident at the *Durbar*'s account for the month of *March* laſt, yet we muſt ſuppoſe more has been received. To explain this properly, you muſt ſend us a diſtinct ſtatement of them from the firſt year of the *Dewannee*, that we may know the amount, and from whom they are due.

XXX. The *Poonea* account contains only the revenues to be paid for the lands and cuſtoms that are farmed. We apprehend there muſt be many incidental branches of the revenue which are not farmed, ſuch as fines, confiſcations, inheritances, and other royal rights belonging to the Mogul or the Nabob. We ſhall expect, at the end of the year, to ſee a diſtinct ſtatement of all ſuch.

XXXI. The accounts of the collections appear to us to require an entire arrangement: and we think a regular journal and ledger will beſt anſwer the purpoſe of keeping the accounts clear and diſtinct. If, in inveſtigating this matter, it ſhould appear that a regular journal and ledger will be the beſt means, it ſhould be commenced from the 30th *April*; which will anſwer, with reſpect to uniformity, to the time of balancing the Company's general books, and with reſpect to the *Poonea* alſo, which uſually falls in *April*.

XXXII. If you adopt this method of keeping a regular ſet of books, you muſt tranſmit them to us as far as they are brought up, whether balanced or not.

XXXIII. Although we do not deſire to have the lands rented at more than they will reaſonably bear, yet being once farmed, the miniſter ſhould exact a punctual performance of the agreement made for them; or outſtanding balances may be a growing and dangerous evil.

XXXIV.

XXXIV. From all your proceedings with reſpect to the late mutiny, and the general conduct of many of the Company's military officers, as obſerved in yours and the general letters, we are fully ſenſible of the neceſſity there is to ſupport the civil and military with all the power the law admits. For this purpoſe you recommend, that no commiſſions may hereafter be beſtowed, or officers ſent out, but under the reſtriction of covenants to ſerve for a certain period of time, as you doubt whether, according to the act of parliament for the government of the Company's forces, they are, without being under ſuch covenants, amenable to courts-martial for any offence committed by them; and you have abſolutely taken obligations to this purpoſe from the officers now in our ſervice; a copy whereof you have tranſmitted to us. Upon this matter we are adviſed, that during the term of ſuch a contract no officer can be diſmiſſed, but by the ſentence of a court-martial, for ſome offence coming within the deſcription in the mutiny act, and the articles of war for the *Eaſt Indies*. As this can never coincide with our intentions of the Governor and Council's having it in their power to *diſmiſs any military officers whatſoever, whenever they ſhall think it may be neceſſary for the intereſt of the Company*, none of the officers we now ſend out have entered into any contract of this kind: and for the ſame reaſon it will be proper for you to diſcontinue the ſame in *Bengal*.

XXXV. In our letter to the Preſident and Council, by the *Lord Camden*, dated the 19th *February* 1766, paragraphs 102, 103, and 104, which they received the beginning of *Auguſt*; and alſo in that by the *Mercury* ſnow, dated the 17th *May* following, to the Select Committee, paragraphs 43 and 44, they and you were directed to make very ſtrict inquiry into the tranſactions of Mr. *Holwell* and others, reſpecting the large ſums of money ſaid to have been received by them of the Nabob *Coſſim Ally Khawn*, for ſeating him in the Subahſhip, and depoſing *Meer Jaffier*; and to tranſmit to us copies of your examinations, authenticated in the moſt ſolemn manner on oath: and we did then farther direct, that the ſaid inquiry ſhould extend, not only to the ſums received at the preciſe period of the ſaid revolution, but alſo to whatever was received on that account, whether before or after it. But as we had no anſwer either from you or the Governor and Council to thoſe particular paragraphs of our ſaid letters, although they were received ſeveral months before the *Mercury* ſnow ſailed from *Bengal*, and having ſince had other intimations of the like kind, as ſhall be mentioned hereafter, we cannot but expreſs our higheſt diſpleaſure at your diſregard and diſobedience of our poſitive injunctions.

XXXVI. We have lately been informed, that Lord *Clive* had in his cuſtody clear and certain proofs of ſeven lacks of rupees being paid by *Coſſim Ally* to our ſervants, for making the *Monghеer* treaty. And his lordſhip having acknowledged, that he is poſſeſſed of ſome informations upon that ſubject, we have, in reply thereto, requeſted that he will tranſmit the ſame to us, together with all the papers in his poſſeſſion relating to the private negociations of ſome of our ſervants, at the time of the revolution in favour of *Coſſim Ally Khawn*, to be depoſited with the Court of Directors; as alſo any other papers that may be in his cuſtody, tending to ſet thoſe tranſactions in their true

light,

light. For as thoſe proofs came to his lordſhip's hands when he was in a public ſtation, we deem them public papers, and as ſuch to be tranſmitted to us. But his lordſhip being lately gone to *France*, for the recovery of his health, we have not yet been able to obtain them. Whenever they do come to our hands, we ſhall doubtleſs be enabled to diſtinguiſh ſuch of our ſervants as have behaved with zeal and fidelity for the honour and intereſt of the Company, from thoſe who have not conducted themſelves with the ſame integrity.

XXXVII. We were greatly aſtoniſhed to find that Lord *Clive* ſhould be in poſſeſſion of ſuch papers, and no mention made of them in your advices, nor any minute thereof appear upon your diary and conſultations. We muſt, therefore ſuppoſe thoſe * examinations were taken privately until we are otherwiſe informed. Our orders for a public inquiry were expreſs and poſitive: and if you had any reaſon to aſſign for deviating from them, you ought certainly to have mentioned it in your anſwer to our before-mentioned letters. But as you are altogether ſilent on that ſubject, we now repeat our ſaid orders, and poſitively direct, under pain of our ſevereſt reſentment, that if an inquiry has not been already made, concerning the preſents of money or jewels given or promiſed to be given by *Coſſim Ally Khawn*, at or about the time of the revolution in his favour, and at or about the time of making the *Mongheer*

* This alludes to Lord *Clive*'s informations againſt the late Mr. *Vanſittart*, which appear upon the reports of the Houſe of Commons, Vol. III. Pages 401 to 404. In juſtice to the memory of that gentleman, we cannot refrain from expoſing the mode in which they were ſaid to have been obtained, by tranſcribing part of a letter which was written on the ſpot, and tranſmitted to Mr. *Vanſittart* upon that occaſion, by the writer, as follows:

Extract of a Letter from William Bolts, *at* Calcutta, *to* Henry Vanſittart, *Eſq; in* London, *dated* Calcutta, *the* 31*ſt* March 1767.

Your Banyan *Ramchurn* has deſired me to forward you the incloſed letter from him, and to inform you of Lord *Clive*'s endeavours to injure you. He ſays, that Lord *Clive* frequently ſent for him and endeavoured by threats to force him to give a writing againſt you of whatever preſents you had received in *Coſſim Ally Khawn*'s time: that upon his refuſing, at one time, his Lordſhip ordered him to be carried away and confined by Seapoys, which however, was not done, his Lordſhip upon reflection thinking proper to countermand the order: that he was thus frequently ſent for and threatened, but that he perſiſted to the laſt in refuſing to anſwer his lordſhip's queſtions. That Lord *Clive* likewiſe ſent for *Cogee Petruſe*, *Hedayet Alla Munſhy*, *Haffez Iſrar Khawn*, and others for the ſame purpoſe, who were threatened that if they did not give the required declarations, they ſhould be delivered over to *Mahommed Reza Khawn*: that oaths were tendered to them which they were forced to take, and upon theſe oaths, ſome declarations were taken, which they were forced to ſign to.

Ramchurn further ſays, that, by way of encouragement, Lord *Clive* told him, "that "he did not want to hurt Mr. *Van.* only he would make uſe of theſe things at home in "proportion as he found it neceſſary, ſhould Mr. *Van.* make any ſtir againſt him." But *Ramchurn* ſays, "he is confident from what he has ſeen and heard here, that Lord *Clive* "will only endeavour to amuſe you till he has ſerved his own purpoſes and ſtrengthened his "own party, having with that intention carried home every thing he could patch up "againſt you."

After Lord *Clive*'s treatment of Mr. *Sumner*, it will be needleſs to ſay any thing to a perſon of your penetration, to put you upon your guard; but as the above information of *Ramchurn* ſeems to proceed from his ſincere attachment to you, I hope you will take in good part, as well his information, as my being the channel of it.

treaty,

treaty, in the month of *December* 1762, you do immediately, on receipt hereof, ſet about the ſaid inquiry, and tranſmit to us the reſult in a very full and particular manner, by the firſt opportunity.

We are,

London, *16th March*, 1768. Your loving friends,

(Signed) THOMAS ROUS, BENJAMIN BOOTH,
THOMAS SAUNDERS, EDWARD WHELER,
GEORGE DUDLEY, GEORGE CUMING,
GEORGE WOMBWELL, JOHN ROBERTS,
PETER DU CANE, jun. JAMES COCKBURN,
WILLIAM SNELL, HENRY SAVAGE,
J. MANSHIP, J. PARDOE,
J. CRESWICKE.

NUM. XXXVII.

EXTRACTS from the Proceedings of a Select Committee held at Calcutta, *on the* 13*th of* September 1768, *containing their Reſolution and Inſtructions to their Deputies to apply to the King*, Shah Allum, *for two or three Provinces, then in Poſſeſſion of* Hindooput, *the Rajah of the* Bundelcund *Country.*

Fort William, the 13*th September* 1768.

At a Select Committee, preſent,

The Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſquire, Preſident,
John Cartier,
Richard Smith,
Richard Becher,
Charles Ffloyer, Eſquires.

PARAGRAPH of a letter of inſtructions to the Deputies, *John Cartier*, *Richard Smith*, and *Claud Ruſſell*, Eſquires.

The incloſed copy of a reſolution of the Select Committee, on the 31ſt *Auguſt*, will explain to you the neceſſity of applying to his Majeſty for the grant of two or three *ſircars*, belonging to the Subah of *Illahabad*, and which are at preſent poſſeſſed by the *Hindooput Rajah*, without lawful authority. You gentlemen on the ſpot will be the beſt judges how far ſuch an application can be made with ſucceſs; and we accordingly impower you to ſettle this matter with his Majeſty in a manner the moſt agreeable to him.

Copy

Copy of the Reſolutions of the Select Committee to make Application to his Majeſty for the Grant of the ſircars uſurped by the Hindooput Rajah, *taken at a Meeting held on the 31ſt* Auguſt 1768.

THE Committee taking into conſideration the very great expences of the brigade, ſtationed at *Illahabad*, at the particular requiſition of the King and *Sujah al Dowlah*, and the great drain of treaſure thereby incurred to theſe provinces for the payment of thoſe troops: *all which, being recoined into a baſe viziery rupee, current in that country only*, and conſequently no part of that money, thus exported, returning back to theſe provinces, are unanimouſly of opinion, that ſome meaſures ſhould be reſolved on for the raiſing of a fund for the future payment of that part of the army, whilſt it continues in that ſtation. And as the *Hindooput Rajah* ſome time ſince poſſeſſed himſelf of two or three ſircars, belonging to the Subah of *Illahabad*, and ſtill continues to poſſeſs them, *without lawful authority*, the committee think, that a repreſentation ſhould be made to the King and *Sujah al Dowlah* of the neceſſity for providing for the ſupport of the troops at *Illahabad*, during their continuance there, from the additional ſircars before-mentioned, and which the Committee are convinced may be obtained without riſk or any material expence.

NUM. XXXVIII.

COPY of a Letter from the Court of Eaſt India *Directors to the Preſident and Select Committee at* Calcutta. *Dated the 11th of* November 1768.

Our Preſident and Select Committee at *Fort William* in *Bengal.*

PAR. I. OUR laſt letter to you was dated the 16th *March* laſt, ſince which we have received your ſeveral letters under the dates and by the ſhips advited in our general letter by this ſhip.

II. We very much approve the regulations you have eſtabliſhed for the freedom of the inland commerce of the natives, and we are perſuaded a few years perſeverance in the ſame conduct will be the means of diffuſing a general opulence throughout the provinces, which we ſhall ultimately feel in the increaſe of the revenues, and the attachment of the people. But as we have excluded our own ſervants from all participation of the inland trade, it behoves you to continue to *uſe every precaution againſt other European nations* partaking of it. The regulations already eſtabliſhed are very proper, but they would be ſtill clearer if the miniſters were particularly to expreſs all the articles which they conceive to fall under the ſpirit and meaning of the firmaun;

Firmaun; and all articles not expreſſed therein to be abſolutely prohibited to all *Europeans*. We muſt here remark that in ALL MEASURES YOU MAY TAKE FOR CHECKING THE TRADE OF THE FRENCH, YOU MUST DO IT THROUGH THE MEANS OF THE COUNTRY GOVERNMENT, AND NEVER APPEAR AS PRINCIPALS YOURSELVES.

III. We ſhould have been much diſpleaſed at the deficiency of rupees, 1,600,000, in the *Dewannee* collections for the *Bengal* year 1174, (1767) had not the accounts ſent down by Mr. *Sykes* ſtated the whole in ſo clear a manner as to explain to us where the deficiencies have ariſen, and left us in expectation of the greateſt part of the balances being recoverable.

IV. By the large *Hoogly* balance, we obſerve the revenue has ſuffered very conſiderably by the loſs on the uſual duties on ſalt. This we take for granted will be amply replaced now that branch of trade is reſtored to the natives. Although our chief object in confining our ſervants to the ſtrict letter of the *Firmaun* has been to do juſtice to the natives, in reſtoring them to their rights, yet we never meant to give up ſuch revenues as government is juſtly intitled to for the protection it gives. As ſoon, therefore, as the inland trade has reverted into its proper channel, you muſt fall on ſome plan to ſee the duties properly collected, and ſo regulated as to bring the neceſſaries of life to a proper price. You will, therefore, form ſome general plan by taking the medium of the prices of ſalt, beetle-nut, tobacco, and other conſiderable articles of general conſumption at the different great markets in the province, that will give you a rule to go by in ſettling the duties; and you ſhould conſider, that by *laying a duty on the exportation of any of theſe articles to the neighbouring provinces* you, in fact, levy ſo much on them without * affecting the ſubjects of the *Bengal* provinces. The exigencies of the government are alſo another rule to go by, ſo that, in caſe of any foreign war, or payment to the *Marahtahs* or other powers, occaſional additions muſt be made, and to ceaſe with the occaſion: theſe are the general principles by which the *European* nations are governed, and you ſhould make the nabob and his miniſters ſenſible of them, and inſtruct them how to conduct themſelves accordingly.

V. Our records point out to us how difficult it is to find people of fidelity to carry on the executive part of the government: this you muſt be more particularly expoſed to in the collection of duties, where it is ſo eaſy to oppreſs and ſo difficult to check.

VI. How far it may be eligible to have the collection at the principal chokeys controuled by *Engliſhmen*, *what effect it would have on the minds of the other Europeans*, or how it would be received in general, you muſt be the beſt judges of, and we expect to receive your ſentiments thereon: and that the revenues ariſing from the duties be kept diſtinct from the lands. When you ſend us a map of the provinces obſerve to diſtinguiſh all the places where the duties are collected.

VII. We always underſtood no jagueers were permitted in *Bengal*: yet we ſee one held by *Rajabullub*. We deſire to know on what tenure he holds it:

* It did not occur to the Directors, that when the prices of *Bengal*-products are ſo raiſed, the natives of the adjacent provinces furniſh themſelves with ſubſtitutes for what they want, from other countries.

and if it does not appear ſatisfactory, how far it may be propet to reſum it, and give us your ſentiments thereon.

VIII. We deſire to know why the *Silhett* revenues are paid in cowries? and when the more important branches are examined into, this country and the provinces adjacent thereto, muſt undergo an inſpection.

IX. * *Tipperah* and *Patchbeet* having been long annexed to the Subahdary of *Bengal*, we ſhould have expected the Government's books would have explained what had been collected in former times: ſuch large diſtricts merit your ſtrict attention.

X. The great balance at *Dinagepore* merited all the attention you gave it. And Mr. *Sykes*'s reſearches into this province, and that of *Purnea*, together with Mr. *Ruſſell*'s into that of *Burdwan*, have given us more inſight into the government and conſtitution of the country than any thing that has yet appeared on your records.

XI. It gives great ſatisfaction to ſee that the *Dinagepore* balance has not ariſen from a depopulated or oppreſſed ſtate of the country, but ſolely from the villany, profuſion, and folly of the Rajah and his miniſters. We cannot ſuffer ſuch depredations of the revenues, and ſhall not think the miniſters do their duty if the balances of *Dinagepore*, *Hoogly*, and *Purnea*, are not all recovered: and we are aſtoniſhed at the lenity of the Nabob and *Mahommed Reza Khawn*, in not having made ſome ſevere examples of theſe great offenders.—There has always been a moſt diſhonourable practice of fining for crimes, which is unbecoming all well-adminiſtered governments, becauſe the exceſs of the crime is an exemption from the puniſhment; that is to ſay, if the farmers and governors exact by oppreſſion enough to ſtop the courſe of juſtice againſt them, they eſcape, and the example remains to others to do the ſame.—The Nabob and his miniſters ſhould early in their adminiſtration have made ſome ſevere examples, not by pecuniary mulcts, but by inflicting the ſevereſt puniſhments the cuſtom of the country permits; then others would have been deterred: and if they ſuffer *Mirza Coſſim*, *Souchit Roy*, and the *Dinagepore* miniſters to eſcape the hand of juſtice, it will be ſuch a relaxation of government as will be productive of many bad conſequences. The compariſon between the ſtate of *Dinagepore* under a fixed government, and *Purnea* under an almoſt annual charge; the affluent ſtate of the *Talooks* in *Burdwan*, compared with the yearly farms, the experience Mr. *Rumbold* has had in *Bahar*, all point out the great utility of letting the lands on long leaſes. This which has ſo frequently occurred to yourſelves, and has been ſo repeatedly recommended to you, you nevertheleſs omit, and particularly on an occaſion wherein you are highly culpable. We mean in the *Burdwan* province, the value of which being now ſo thoroughly inveſtigated, ought immediately to have been farmed out on long leaſes. We direct you to practiſe it in future in *Burdwan*, and would have your recommend it to the Nabob and his miniſters, to do it in the other parts of the country, where the value of the lands has been aſcertained.

* The real ſtate of *Tipperah* and the *Chittigong* provinces had been long kept ſung; and their being frontier-provinces, expoſed to frequent ravages, was the pretended reaſon aſſigned for their revenues not increaſing in proportion to thoſe of the Company's other territorial acquiſitions.

XII.

XII. For the recovery of the large balances at *Dinagepore*, there ſeems to require nothing but ſeverity to thoſe miniſters of the Rajah who have abuſed their power. *Purnea* requires not only the puniſhment of *Souchit Roy*, but a thorough inveſtigation, ſuch as has been made in *Burdwan*, and a long continued protection, to reſtore the country from the miſerable ſtate to which a ſucceſſion of rapacious Governors has reduced it. We hope one or more of our moſt experienced ſervants have been engaged in this, and they may be aſſured of diſtinguiſhed marks of our favour if they acquit themſelves to our ſatisfaction.

XIII. We expect to find the miniſters have made a minute reſearch into the *Hoogly* balances, and as *Mirza Coſſim* has been ſo highly favoured by the Government, he is the more criminal in his conduct, and a more proper object for an example of ſeverity. You will incur our higheſt diſpleaſure if any part of the balance juſtly due from him is loſt.

XIV. We are pleaſed to ſee Mr. *Sykes*'s reſearches into the *Dacca* revenues have been productive of ſuch good effects. The reduction of unneceſſary charges is of all the moſt eligible mode of increaſing the revenues, and what we hope to ſee in all the large diſtricts, in conſequence of the increaſe of our military eſtabliſhment, and the reduction of the provincial troops.

XV. We remark 90,000 rupees charged as the Subahdar's ſalary. It is no where clearly expreſſed who is meant by the Subahdar, but we preſume it means *Mahommed Reza Khawn*: but it being underſtood that the ſalary allowed him was in lieu of all perquiſities, this appears an impropriety, if taken after that ſtipend was ſettled. We ſhall expect you will inquire into this, and ſee it refunded, if both were received at the ſame time and upon this occaſion. We muſt obſerve you have never given any reply to our former order relative to the large balance due from him on account of the *Dacca* revenues, at the time he was appointed Naib Dewan to the Nabob *Najim al Dowlah*.

XVI. The ſupport of the ſtate-priſoners muſt be continued; but be cautious that a proper report is made to you in caſe of the death of any of them.

XVII. We obſerve two courts of juſtice are eſtabliſhed at *Dacca*. We deſire you will explain before whom the appeal lays, and where the *dernier* reſort is lodged.

XVIII. When we conſider the vaſt ſums that are carried into this province for its produce both in grain and manufactures, and that it never is the ſcene of war, we muſt ſuppoſe it to be in a very flouriſhing ſtate. When, therefore, any emergency requires an extraordinary taxation, we hope reſources may be found in this province, without oppreſſing the people.

XIX. We obſerve the total amount of the balances in the *Bahar* collections is not very conſiderable, yet among them are ſome heavy articles. If it appears that the *Zemindars* have collected from the tenants the full amount of what they are to pay; no excuſe ſhould be admitted againſt a punctual execution of their agreements: and the method of ſuffering arrears to run on to the following year, is pernicious.

XX. Mr. *Sykes*'s manner of ſtating the agreement, collection, charges, and balance, muſt be the model to be followed in all the provinces; and in the *coyfut* or liſt of balances at the end of the year, there muſt be the reaſons

aſſigned for ſuch balances, and in the following year a ſeparate ſtatement of thoſe balances, that we may ſee the recovery of them purſued in a proper manner.

XXI. After *Coſſim Ally Khawn* had gone through the odious taſk of reſuming the jagueers, it ſeems to us an error to have reſtored them: but being reſtored, it will appear very ungracious to reſume them. However, we can give no particular directions on the ſubject till we underſtand the rank, ſtation, and characters of the people who hold them, all which you will therefore ſend us; in the mean time, let no new ones be granted, nor the old ones reſumed, without our approbation.

XXII. We obſerve, with great concern, your apprehenſions of the declining ſtate of *Mahommed Reza Khawn*'s health. We have had ſuch proofs of his attachment to us, and abilities in conducting the collections and other weighty affairs of the government, that we eſteem it a ſingular inſtance of your good fortune to have had ſo able a miniſter, to overcome all the difficulties conſequential to ſo new an office. You judged well to give him a *Naib* or deputy, but we cannot conſent to any additional ſalary being aſſigned him from the revenues. The ſum of twelve lacks already appropriated to the miniſters, being very great, and *Mahommed Reza Khawn* enjoying ſo great a proportion of it as nine lacks *per annum*, it is incumbent on him to yield up part of his ſalary to the man who is to aſſiſt him in performing that duty he is ſo amply paid for.

XXIII. We cannot cloſe this ſubject of the revenues without a reflexion on the advantages of peace, on which alone the manufactures and revenues depend. No ſucceſs in war can poſſibly compenſate the loſſes that would ariſe from the tranquillity of the provinces being diſturbed.

XXIV. It is not without anxiety that we remark an aptneſs in you to fancy the intereſt of the *Bengal* provinces intereſted in every war among the country powers, and a tendency to that very dangerous idea, that the way to preſerve peace is to be the umpires of the balance of power in *Hindoſtan*. We have already expreſſed ourſelves fully on the ſubject; but think we cannot too ſtrongly inculcate this important truth, that all proſperity depends on preſerving the provinces in peace and tranquillity: and be aſſured, that every ſervant of ours who ſhall engage us in a war, that is not juſtified on the cleareſt conviction of reaſon and neceſſity, will ſtand accountable to us for all the conſequences.

XXV. Mr. *Sykes*'s conduct in the management of the revenues, and the clear and judicious method in which he has arranged the accounts, are highly agreeable to us. He is to be acquainted with the favourable opinion we entertain of his great attention to this important branch of our concerns.

XXVI. As we look with a favourable eye on every attempt for the extenſion of commerce, we do not diſapprove the expedition to *Napal*, and are ſorry it failed of ſucceſs.—You did right not to renew the expedition till the ſtate of your forces could better admit of it; and hold in your poſſeſſion the lands taken from the *Goorkha Rajah*, as an indemnification for the expences we had been put to. They may be of uſe, ſhould it hereafter be thought

thought proper to renew the attempt, and we hope their amount has answered your expectations.

XXVII. We ſee, with pleaſure, the progreſs made in your negociations for *Oriſſa*, and hope the firſt ſhip of the next ſeaſon will bring an account of your having concluded it, and that you have taken care to be in poſſeſſion of that province before you advance a rupee of the money to be paid.

XXVIII. As ſoon as you are in poſſeſſion it muſt be ſurveyed, with a very exact and minute deſcription of all the powers who border on it: and one or more of our principal ſervants, the moſt experienced in the buſineſs of collections, be ſent to eſtabliſh the revenues there: and it muſt be one of our ſervants who can purſue the object for three or four years together, that the products, value, and ſituation may be as thoroughly inveſtigated as thoſe of *Burdwan* and the *Calcutta* lands.—When a ſurvey is taken, no one is to be permitted to take a copy of it: which leads us to repeat our aſtoniſhment at the unfaithful conduct of our ſurveyors, in that they have ſent us no one production of their labours, though they have already put the company to a very great expence, which is ſtill going on at the rate of 5000 and 10,000 rupees per month: and this neglect is aggravated by our finding that maps of all the provinces are in the hands of Lord *Clive* and Governor *Vanſittart*.—We ſhould have carried our reſentment at their conduct as far as diſmiſſion, had not the advices by the laſt ſhip aſſured us the ſurveys will be completed and ſent us next year.

XXIX. We hope you have not neglected to puniſh *Narraindoo*, for his hoſtilities, in ſtopping our intercourſe with the *Sircars*, and his irruption into the *Chicacole* country. If you have not done it, take the firſt opportunity that a ſtate of tranquillity may permit, to chaſtiſe him in the ſevereſt manner; taking care to make him, or his country, pay for the expence of the expedition.

XXX. The poſſeſſion of *Salſett* and *Baſſaim* are objects of ſo much importance to us, that all the preſidencies muſt co-operate to obtain them, whenever a fair occaſion offers.

XXXI. As the war on the coaſt of *Choromandel* has been a very important event in our political ſyſtem in *India*, we think it proper to tranſmit you a copy of all we have wrote to our ſervants at *Fort St. George* on the ſubject; that you may know our ſentiments on the points diſcuſſed therein, and that the ſeveral preſidencies may act on one uniform plan. We find this the more neceſſary, becauſe we obſerve they are countenanced in their wild ideas of eſtabliſhing *a new Subahdár in the Deckan*, by the ſeveral letters you have wrote them, and which indicates that you poſſeſs much more of the ſpirit of conqueſt, than is conſiſtent with that permanency which is our object. You will, therefore, pay the ſame attention to the letters addreſſed to our ſervants at *Fort St. George* as if they were addreſſed to yourſelves: and this leads us to a recapitulation of what we have wrote to you, and what advices we have received from you relative to your conduct towards the neighbouring powers.

It is evident, that Lord *Clive*, in forming the treaty of 1765, conſidered *Sujah al Dowlah* as the proper barrier againſt the *Marahtahs* and the northern powers: and that his enemies might not take advantage of the weak ſtate to

which our arms had reduced him, a brigade was for ſome time ſtationed at *Illahabad*. When the terms of the treaty were fulfilled, and *Sujah al Dowlah* had made ſome progreſs in recruiting his forces, Lord *Clive* withdrew the brigade, leaving only one battalion at the requeſt of the King. This was in *July* 1766. But in *October* following, the approach of *Abdallah*, and the earneſt ſolicitations of *Sujah al Dowlah*, obliged the Select Committee to order a brigade to be ſtationed again at *Illahabad*, intending however, we ſuppoſe, to withdraw it as ſoon as the apprehenſions of an invaſion ſhould ceaſe. And Lord *Clive*, in his letter to the Select Committee of the 16th *January* 1767, recommends the withdrawing it as ſoon as poſſible, leaving a detachment of only one battalion, to quiet the fears which the Vizier entertained even againſt the King himſelf, who had invited the *Marahtahs* to croſs the *Nerbuddah* and join him, promiſing them our aſſiſtance in the execution of his favourite deſign of marching to *Dehly*. It is certain that the King, finding himſelf diſappointed in this ſcheme, by our non-concurrence, was upon the point of throwing himſelf into the hands of the *Marahtahs*, forgetful as well of his own true intereſt as of his obligations to the *Engliſh*. That deſign, you may be aſſured, he has not, nor perhaps ever will, totally relinquiſh: but he ſtill flatters himſelf with the hope of our aſſiſtance; and ſo long as he ſees the ſtrong ſupport of one of our brigades at *Illahabad*, he will ever be forming ſchemes to embroil us in the politics of the country, or ſoliciting us to gratify him in his project of going to *Dehly*. To deprive the *Bengal* provinces of one intire brigade merely to allay his fears, or to feed his hopes, is a moſt pernicious conceſſion, and therefore we cannot but wiſh to hear of your having evacuated *Illahabad*. Poſitive orders upon this head we cannot give you, becauſe you muſt undoubtedly act according to the emergency of affairs: but we inſiſt upon your looking back to your own and Lord *Clive*'s reaſonings upon the firſt ſtationing of a brigade at *Illahabad*, and ſuffer not yourſelves to be duped by any ill-founded alarms of the King or *Sujah al Dowlah*. The motive you allege for continuing the brigade in that ſtation is, to watch the motions of the *Marahtahs* and other country-powers: and hence ariſes our anxiety, becauſe it ſeems founded on the principle expreſſed in your letters to *Fort St. George*, and in the letter of Preſident *Verelſt*, *viz.* "That the *Engliſh* are to maintain the character of Umpires of *Hindoſtan*." A principle that may involve us in every war, from *Dehly* to *Cape Comoreen*. One invariable maxim ought ever to be retained, which is, that we are to avoid taking part in the political ſchemes of any of the country princes. If *Sujah al Dowlah*'s dominions ſhould ever be actually invaded, we are bound by treaty to aſſiſt him: but as to any ambitious views of his, he muſt execute them as well as he can, without the leaſt aſſiſtance from us; nor are you to interfere in, or be anxious concerning the quarrels, defeats, or victories of any *Indian* power whatſoever; for the more they diſpute and fight with one another, the leſs will they be enabled or inclined to act offenſively againſt us.

XXXIII. The effects that we look for from withdrawing the brigade will be, either that the King will put himſelf in *Sujah al Dowlah*'s power, or follow the brigade, or fling himſelf into the arms of the *Marahtahs* or any other power who will give him hopes of an army to conduct him to *Dehly*: either of which would be far more eligible than the preſent jarring ſyſtem. If he puts

puts himſelf in *Sujah al Dowlah*'s power, he, as Vizier, will poſſeſs himſelf of the power of diſpoſing of his revenues and of the royal authority; and we ſhall be no longer embarraſſed with his machinations to excite us to a rupture with *Sujah al Dowlah*. If he flings himſelf into the hands of the *Marahtahs*, or any other power, we are diſengaged from him; and *it may open a fair opportunity of withholding the twenty-ſix lacks we now pay him*. But the moſt eligible for us would be to have him follow the brigade into the *Bahar* province. In that caſe you muſt inform *Sujah al Dowlah*, that, in virtue of the treaty of *Illahabad*, we, as guarantees, eſteem the King's poſſeſſions under our immediate protection; and that we ſhall repel any attempts that he may make to poſſeſs himſelf of them. But though this language is to be held, we do not mean that you ſhould engage in a war with *Sujah al Dowlah*, even though he ſhould poſſeſs himſelf of the King's poſſeſſions; no intereſts of the King being of that importance to us as to plunge us into a war.

XXXIV. This being the concluſion we wiſh to have theſe affairs brought to, we rely on your abilities to conduct them ſo as neither to involve us in a war, nor draw on us the imputation of violated faith.

XXXV. The nature of the orders we have given you above require the moſt profound ſecrecy: and therefore the knowledge of them muſt be confined to the Select Committee only, unleſs you ſhould have occaſion to produce them to the Council, in juſtification of any meaſures you may take in conſequence.

XXXVI. Whether or not *Sujah al Dowlah* meant to break with us at the time our affairs in the *Deckan* and *Carnatic* were in ſuſpenſe, is matter of opinion not eſſentially neceſſary to enter into; yet we cannot omit expreſſing our diſpleaſure, that you ſhould have relaxed from the neceſſary precaution ſo ſtrongly recommended by Lord *Clive*, of garriſoning *Chunargur*, by ſuffering *Sujah al Dowlah* to introduce troops ſufficient to have poſſeſſed himſelf of the place: a remiſſneſs that, in caſe of a rupture, might have been attended with very dangerous conſequences.

XXXVII. The only precautions we would recommend againſt *Sujah al Dowlah*'s military progreſs are, to prevent *Europeans*, as much as poſſible, from engaging in his ſervice; and to be very watchful that no cannon, fire-arms, or artillery-ſtores find their way by the *Ganges* into his dominions: and when there is a ceſſation of the heavy works going on in the fortifications at *Fort William*, you may then have the *Bahar* boundary ſurveyed, and either form a ſtrong line for encampment, or build a fortification, with magazines ſufficient to ſerve againſt a country enemy, as a ſecure place for the brigade to be ſtationed on that frontier, and a depoſitory of ſtores to enable our troops to take the field immediately, whenever occaſion requires.

XXXVIII. *Every method muſt be tried to get Monſieur* Gentil, *and every* European *from his country: obſerving to uſe therein ſuch means as ſhall not hurt the dignity or independency of* Sujah al Dowlah, *or leave room for the* French *to conſtrue them as violations of the friendſhip between the two crowns.*

XXXIX. Should there ſubſiſt a perfect harmony between the *Engliſh* and *Sujah al Dowlah* at the time of withdrawing the brigade, we would have you to preſs him to permit an eſtabliſhment in his country for the extenſion of the ſales of our woollens, under ſuch regulations as may be agreeable to him: but we

we mean to confine the advantages of it to the Company. And at the ſame time you urge this to him, *urge alſo the excluſion of the* French *and other nations.*

XL. It is with concern we ſee an interruption to that harmony which ought to ſubſiſt among thoſe who have the principal management of our affairs, more eſpecially as your diſputes are with Colonel *Smith*, a member of the Committee, and a gentleman of whoſe zeal and abilities we entertain a very favourable opinion: and we are glad to ſee, by your laſt advices, theſe altercations are at an end.

XLI. We much approve of your ſupporting your own authority with firmneſs and dignity: and you did right in checking what appeared to you encroachments thereon: but at the ſame time we think you have in ſeveral inſtances failed in that confidence which is due to the commanding officer, who is at the ſame time a member of the Select Committee. While a gentleman of his rank in the civil and military was ſtationed at ſuch a diſtance as *Illahabad*, we think it was a mark of confidence due to him, that all the correſpondence between the Preſident, the King, and the Vizier, ſhould have paſſed through his hands: which was not a mere matter of compliment, but neceſſary to make him appear reſpectable in their eyes, and to found his own conduct upon, that it might coincide with your views and ſentiments. We cannot but take notice, that the *Napal* expedition was not only undertaken without conſulting him, but the commanding officer of the detachment on that ſervice ſeems never to have correſponded with him, or ſent him his returns; which is contrary to all the rules of military ſubordination.

XLII. You judged very right in refuſing your conſent to Colonel *Smith*'s acceptance of the two lacks tendered him by the King. It was by no means one of thoſe caſes that could meet with countenance from us: *it being univerſally known the King is, of all the princes in the Eaſt, the one who can the leaſt afford preſents of this ſort*; you are therefore to return the teep to his Majeſty.

XLIII. *Sujah al Dowlah*, we obſerve, was pleaſed alſo to make him a tender of two lacks of rupees, which Colonel *Smith* very honourably communicated to you, and refuſed to accept. Should that offer be renewed him, we ſhall conſider it as a mark of *Sujah al Dowlah*'s ſatisfaction in the Colonel's conduct, and ſhall with pleaſure give our approbation.

London, 11*th Nov.* 1768.

We are,

Your loving friends,

(Signed)

H. CRABB BOULTON,
G. COLEBROOKE,
JOHN HARRISON,
FRED. PIGOU,
ROB. JONES,
J. PURLING,
PERE. CUST,
DANIEL WIER,
LUKE SCRAFTON,
GEO. WOMBWELL,
JOHN WOODHOUSE,
J. HURLOCK,
WILLIAM SNELL,
BEN. BOOTH,
JA. COCKBURN,
J. CRESWICKE,
CHARLES CHAMBERS,
JOHN STEPHENSON,
J. PARDOE,
WILL. JAMES,
E. H. CRUTTENDEN,
EDW. WHELER,
PETER DUCANE Jun.

NUM. XXXIX.

EXTRACT *of a Letter from Mr.* Robert Maddiſon, *a Factor at the Durbar, to Mr.* John Mudie, *a free Merchant at* Patna, *dated the 20th* January 1769; *as the ſame hath been exhibited in the late Mayor's Court of* Calcutta, *and before the* Eaſt India *Directors in* London.

Mootey Jeel, January 20th 1769.

My dear Friend,

I RECEIVED your friendly letter four days ago, and only waited, becauſe Mr. *Cartier*'s arrival, and attendance to meet him, prevented me from ſettling ſome neceſſary points with Mr. * *B.* He had, in *Calcutta*, acquieſced in a propoſal of mine, of dividing the emoluments of the Reſidency according to † ſtation, *&c.* and accordingly delivered me this day an eſtimate of 60,000 rupees *per annum* for my ſhare, excluſive of all trade, *&c.* and excluſive of ſalt. The laſt article he is determined not to meddle in himſelf, and he thinks it better for the Company's ſervants here not to meddle in it directly at preſent. He has however, on my urging yeſterday my deſire of your being conſidered, and the great diſappointments you had met with, put your name down at 40,000 rupees, of his own accord; and as this is the only article which I diſapprove of in the arrangement, I will either get it increaſed, or ſo ſeparated, that I can make more of it. In ſhort, my friend, I have every reaſon to be perfectly ſatisfied; and doubt not *but both our purpoſes will be effectually anſwered*, LET FRIENDS AT HOME DO WHAT THEY WILL. Thirty-two thouſand maunds of ſalt have, I apprehend, by this time nearly reached *Mongheer*, on our common account.——They will ſtand in about rupees 1. 14. 0. *per* maund, expences included; ſo that I apprehend a conſiderable advantage may be made, eſpecially if you puſh the ſale of the whole together, at even a much lower rate than the market price with you. The remaining 30,000 maunds I will endeavour to ſell here, or hereabouts, BY INFLUENCE, and doubt not a good market.

I believe we ſhall get all our matters ſettled at laſt to our heart's content at *Calcutta*, though great diſappointments have taken place, and I have not been able to raiſe a farthing here till within a very few days. To tell you the truth, your ‡ friend, *I declare before God*, had taken ſo effectual pains to put me at moſt on a level with § *Ducarell*, &c. that I found it neceſſary to

* *Richard Becher*, Eſq; then third in Council at *Fort William*, and Reſident at the *Durbar*.

† Mr. *Maddiſon*'s proportion of *emoluments*, as a factor, was only three ſixteenths.

‡ Suppoſed to be *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; then Governor of *Calcutta*.

§ Suppoſed to be gentlemen who were to be provided for by Lord *Clive*'s recommendation.

ſhew WHAT I WAS before I made any attempts to aſk.—My plan I find will anſwer; though, to tell you truth, the poor * *Carcaſe* is plucked ſo bare, and money ſo ſcarce, that even a chief of *Coſſimbazar* thinks himſelf obliged to the † *Seats* for 20,000 rupees.

I am ſurprized at your not hearing from me; I wrote you under date the 10th of *December*, near four ſheets of paper. I am ſummoned to *Calcutta* in about a month, you will eaſily gueſs why.—The great ‡ man ſtays another year, and Mr. *Cartier* is really very glad of it.—More ſoon, till then believe me,

Dear MUDIE,

Your's ever ſincerely,

R. MADDISON.

The beaſt embarked on *Sunday* laſt, after having, in the midſt of his affliction, ſecured leave to receive a lack, or upwards, in jewels from *M. R. Khown*, for his good ſervices; and which, I ſuppoſe, was allowed by the others, *as a precedent for themſelves*.—Pray, if § *Cartre* is not ſet out, diſpatch him with all ſpeed here.

A true copy.

(Signed) J. MAY, Regiſter.

NUM. XL.

EXTRACT of a Letter from Governor Vereſt *to the Court of* Eaſt India *Directors. Dated the 5th* April 1769.

Par. 1. I HAD the honour to addreſs you by the ſhip *Valentine*, Captain *Purvis*, and tranſmitted you then ſo full and ample a detail of the ſituation of the country in general, and your own poſſeſſions and commerce in particular, as leaves me little to add by this opportunity.

II. Though the ſame ill ſtate of health I before complained of has, by the weight and fatigue of buſineſs, been conſiderably augmented; and though my remaining in *India* another ſeaſon, muſt be attended with a manifeſt riſque of my conſtitution, if not life; yet, in the diſtreſſed ſituation of the country and finances, in the alarming circumſtances of your affairs on the coaſt, and, above all, in the precarious and critical ſtate of the ſucceſſion to

* The *Engliſh Eaſt India* Company.
† The bankers ſo named.
‡ Alluding to the *Hindoſtan* expreſſion *Burra Saheb*, the Governor, then *Harry Vereſt*, Eſq;
§ *John Cartre* was Mr. *Maddiſon*'s clerk.

your

your Council, I thought I could not, either in juſtice to you, to my ſucceſſor, or myſelf, quit the reins of government, till time had given matters a more ſettled aſpect in the two firſt inſtances, and your orders of the ſeaſon determined the latter.

III. There has no material alteration taken place in the King's affairs, or in thoſe of the other powers of *Hindoſtan*, ſince the date of my laſt letter. His Majeſty is ſtill at *Illahabad*, and has ſhewn ſome diſpoſition towards a reconciliation with his Vizier, and honoured him with a viſit of compliment at his capital of *Feyzabad*.

*IV. The tranſactions with the Vizier *Sujah al Dowlah*, his diſpoſition and behaviour on the deputation, and the new ties of friendſhip and alliance in which he has again bound himſelf to us, are ſo amply ſet forth in the letters from the gentlemen of the deputation, to the Select Committee, as to render any recapitulation or remarks of mine unneceſſary. You, gentlemen, will be the beſt enabled to judge from thence, how far my *pre-conceived* idea, communicated in the above letter, was juſt and well founded, and what room and grounds there have been for that ſuſpicion and apprehenſion, which formed ſo large a part of our debates and correſpondence.

NUM. XLI.

COPY of a Letter from Colonel Richard Smith *to the Select Committee at* Calcutta. *Dated, near* Illahabad, *the 1ſt of* May 1769; *and recorded at the Committee held on the 19th of* May 1769.

Fort William, the 19th May 1769.

At a Select Committee, preſent,

John Cartier, Eſq; Preſident,
James Alexander, and
Charles Ffleyer, Eſquires.

To the Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident and Governor of *Fort William*, &c. &c. and the Gentlemen of the Select Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAD the honour to addreſs the Preſident under date of the 25th *ultimo*, which doubtleſs has been laid before you; and I now incloſe a †*ſhukah* from the King, and a letter from the Vizier, both addreſſed to the Preſident.

* In the pretended copy of this letter, which Mr. *Verelſt* has given the public in his APPENDIX, page 114, he has ſuppreſſed this 4th paragraph. It did not anſwer Mr. *Verelſt*'s purpoſe to let the world ſee that he himſelf was convinced of the peaceful diſpoſitions of the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah*, after he had ſet up the apprehenſion of hoſtilities as a pretence to juſtify every act of tyranny.

† A note.

From my long and intimate connexion with the grandees of *Hindoſtan*, I am apt to ſuſpect all their actions. The unexpected reconciliation betwixt the King and the Vizier, and his Majeſty's ſudden journey to *Feyzabad*, were events that appeared to me fraught with conſequences, as will appear by my letter of the 8th *February* to the Preſident, and of the 12th of that month to the Select Committee.

I muſt remark, that whilſt the deputies were here, the King expreſſed his ſurprize to them, that, notwithſtanding four years were elapſed, he had not yet received an anſwer from the King of *England*. You doubtleſs are informed, that under this pretext our former Preſident, Lord *Clive*, eluded his Majeſty's ſolicitations for an army to conduct him to his capital; and I ſuppoſe you are alſo acquainted with the letters and preſents which Lord *Clive* carried from the King to our Sovereign. The Emperor has oftentimes queſtioned me on this ſubject; and to receive no anſwer from the King or Lord *Clive* is, to him, matter of much aſtoniſhment.—But a few days ſince, his Majeſty again introduced this ſubject, and obſerved to me, that his not hearing from the King of *England* was to him conviction, that he never intended to aſſiſt him in the re-eſtabliſhment of his affairs. "I plainly ſee," (ſays he) "that you will not march from hence, and it is impoſſible for "me long to remain here, with my hands before me;" at the ſame time croſſing his hands as if bound.—I muſt own that I have been often puzzled for a proper reply; for it is in vain ſaying, That we wait for orders, ſince his Majeſty one day aſked me, by whoſe orders our forces firſt came to *Illahabad?* and remarked, that thoſe who had the power to advance their army ſo far, had alſo the power to aſſiſt him, if they had but the inclination.

I relate theſe particulars only that you may perceive the King's earneſt deſire to march towards his Capital; and that you may alſo perceive he begins to ſee plainly, that we do not mean to carry him thither ourſelves.—Diſappointed in the hopes he placed on us, rather than forego his favourite project, he ſeems determined to embrace the preſent opportunity of making the attempt by means of his own ſubjects; and perhaps the meaſures now purſuing will beſt explain the late extraordinary marks of civility from the King to the Vizier, and the Vizier's ſubmiſſive return of obedience and attention to his Sovereign.

The King and Vizier, on this occaſion, have acted openly towards me. I was ſent for into the preſence, where the engagements which the King had required of the Vizier, and the Vizier's petition to the King, were produced. At my requeſt copies were given to me, which I now incloſe to you.

I have never found myſelf in a ſituation which required a more delicate conduct. The very extenſive power which the King has agreed to delegate to the Vizier, as an encouragement to the undertaking of this enterprize, alarms me; yet where is the remedy?

The Company have poſitively forbid us to enter into any meaſures for the King's reſtoration; and you ſeem reſolved to recal the forces which are ſtationed in this province. Indeed their reſidence here, upon the ſyſtem hitherto followed, is utterly repugnant to the welfare of the Company. For my own part, I have, from the beginning, conſidered our connexion with the

the King as a mill-ſtone about our necks; and that it would be a happy event for the Company, whenever they could honourably diſengage themſelves from this connexion. And as the orders of the Directors, and your own intentions are to withdraw the greateſt part of your forces from the King, it may perhaps be conſidered as more honourable for us, that thoſe forces were not withdrawn until after the King's were marched from *Illahabad*. Many of my former letters have expreſſed my apprehenſions of the King falling into the power of the Vizier. Thoſe apprehenſions are ſtill the ſame, becauſe I know full well the ambition of the Vizier; but I have reflected, that this ambition will now lead him to a remote object, where even ſucceſs will inevitably engage him into further enterprize; whilſt, on the other hand, our forces will be collected within our provinces, our expences be conſiderably leſſened, and by a prudent œconomy, we may have the means of ſupporting a war with reputation, ſhould hereafter our own provinces be invaded.

Taking all theſe circumſtances into conſideration, I thought it not for the intereſt of the Company for me to make any oppoſition; for with what propriety could I oppoſe his Majeſty's inclinations, when I knew you were determined to withdraw your forces? Beſides, ſince I was convinced a ſeparation muſt take place, either by the King leaving us, or by our leaving him, I judged it moſt conſiſtent with the public good, to part with the King and Vizier on the beſt terms; and upon this ſyſtem I framed my conduct. In the Vizier's petition to the King, you will obſerve an article which reſpects the welfare of the Company. I will do him the juſtice to ſay, that he inſerted it without any ſuggeſtion whatſoever from me. But when I ſaw new engagements made, which granted ſo much power to the Vizier, I thought it neceſſary to guard in ſome meaſure againſt that power, by binding the Vizier down, by a ſolemn engagement, always to exert his influence with the King, for the honour and welfare of our nation. The copy of this engagement you will alſo receive incloſed; and you will readily impute the mode, in which it is drawn, to proceed from my delicacy towards the Vizier, that no ſuſpicions of his future conduct might be expreſſed.

As a declaration from his Majeſty, of his ſenſe of our fidelity and attachment, and of his determination ever to regard the *Engliſh* as the firm ſupporters of the Houſe of *Taemoor*, may in ſome future time be of uſe both *to the Company at home*, and to their adminiſtration abroad, I have made ſuch a repreſentation to his Majeſty, and ſhall tranſmit his declaration, ſigned in due form, in a ſubſequent letter.

I want language to expreſs to you the ſolicitude with which the King has requeſted me to furniſh him with two battalions of ſeapoys, and a few *Europeans*, as a body guard; and which, both he and the Vizier aſſured me, was promiſed by Lord *Clive*, if he would undertake his expedition to *Debly*. He laid before me the honour we had acquired by our attachment to him, and the diſgrace which it would be if we ſhould refuſe ſo ſmall a mark of our obedience; and it would make the whole empire believe we had deſerted him. When I referred his Majeſty to the orders I ſhould receive from you, he mentioned the fortunate day being fixed for his departure; and referred

me

me to my knowledge of the embroiled ſtate of affairs in the *Jaut*'s dominions, and how much expedition was neceſſary. The Vizier too, in private, obſerved to me, that ſuch a mark of attention ſurely would not be denied to the King. That Lord *Clive* abſolutely made ſuch a promiſe is very probable, from the incloſed extract of his letter to me on this ſubject. But I would not on any conſideration whatſoever give my conſent, until I receive your inſtructions; at the ſame time I promiſed his Majeſty ſhould have an eſcort to the bounds of the *Korah* province: but I am ſorry to remark, that the King was much diſſatisfied with this reſervation.

When I reflect, that the Vizier has ſeveral *Frenchmen* in his ſervice, and that one in particular is in his confidence, it is to be apprehended, that if we recal all of our nation from attending him, it will leave an open field for the artful inſinuations of our rivals, without any check whatſoever; and as * *Captain* Harper, *by the propriety of his conduct, ſtands very high in the eſteem of the Vizier, I think he would not only prove a proper check* on the intrigues of theſe *Frenchmen*, but from him we ſhould receive true information of all tranſactions; beſides having it in our power to make ſuch repreſentations to the Vizier, from time to time, as circumſtances may require.

From the advices I have received, the ſon of *Rutton Sing*, an infant of eighteen months, has been proclaimed ſucceſſor to his father; but he is only an inſtrument in the hands of *Dan Shah*, who governs as regent. Many of the principal *Jauts* are by no means ſatisfied with the power he aſſumes; and whilſt theſe inteſtine broils prevail, the *Ragepoots*, the *Marabtahs*, and the *Rohillahs*, have already begun hoſtilities in different quarters, each endeavouring to aggrandize themſelves at the expence of the *Jauts*.

Before I conclude this letter I will offer it as my opinion, that unleſs you avowedly oppoſe the King's march with the Vizier, it were better to concur in what we cannot prevent, without perhaps ſubjecting ourſelves to greater inconveniences by attempting to prevent it. If I am to believe the preſent appearances, the King is reſolved to commence his march on the auſpicious day, which is the 15th of the next moon. But although the terms are finally adjuſted betwixt him and the Vizier, ſuch is the diſpoſition both of one and the other, that it would not ſurprize me if ſome new obſtacles ſhould ariſe. However I only mention this as a general obſervation.

I have only to requeſt you will be pleaſed to ſend me your orders with all expedition; and I ſhall be happy to hear that I have acted agreeable to your ſentiments.

I have the honour to ſubſcribe myſelf,

With great reſpect,

GENTLEMEN,

Head-quarters, near Your moſt obedient,

Illahabad, Humble ſervant,

the 1ſt May 1769. (Signed) RICHARD SMITH.

* Here lies the true key for unfolding the meaning of the whole of this letter.

NUM

NUM. XLII.

EXTRACT of a Letter from Mr. Richard Becher, *Reſident at the* Durbar, *to Governor* Verelſt; *as laid before the Select Committee on the 8th* July 1769, *relative to the Trade and State of the Country.*

Fort William, the 8th July 1769.

At a Select Committee, preſent,

The Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident,
John Cartier,
James Alexander, and
Charles Floyer, Eſquires.

Read the following Extract of a Letter from *Richard Becher*, Eſq; to the Honourable Preſident, dated at *Maidapore*, the 7th *May* 1769.

I Now ſit down to put on paper my ſentiments on the preſent ſituation of affairs in theſe parts, and to point out what appear to me as neceſſary ſteps to be immediately taken for the relief of the inhabitants, the cultivation of the country, and the benefit of the Company. I muſt beg leave to remark, at ſetting out, that my idea of the Company's valuable poſſeſſions in *Bengal* is, that they ſhould be eſteemed permanent, and ſuch meaſures purſued as will be moſt likely to make them ſo; and that meaſures that tend only to a preſent increaſe of revenue or inveſtment, with an apparent prejudice to future times, are deſtructive to the country, and not for the true intereſt of our employers. On this baſis I ſhall found my opinion, as well on the preſent mode of providing the Company's inveſtments, as on the collection of the revenues.

Since the honourable Company have been in poſſeſſion of the Dewannee, the influence that has been uſed in providing their inveſtment, and under their name goods on private account, *has proved ſuch a monopoly, that the* * *Chaſſars, manufacturers*, &c. *have been obliged to ſell their commodities at any price thoſe employed to purchaſe for the* Engliſh *thought proper to give them. They had no choice.* If any country merchant, *Armenian*, or others, attempted to purchaſe, there was an immediate cry, that it interfered with the Company's inveſtment. This plea has been made uſe of in all quarters, for private emolument, to the ſtagnation of trade, and the oppreſſion of the Chaſſars, manufacturers, *&c. The latter finding no free vent for their commodities, are diſcouraged from producing them*; and it is certain, that the quantity of † Putney produced in the diſtricts hereabout decreaſes annually; and

* Thoſe who are ſolely employed in tillage.
† Silk in its firſt raw ſtate.

it is as certain that, if the preſent monopolizing ſyſtem continues, even the Company's inveſtment will be reduced very low, although all other conſiderations ſhould continue to give way to it: ſo that, even in that reſpect, it becomes good policy to adopt a better ſyſtem. And when it is further conſidered, that the Company are now the lords of this country, and the revenues flow into their treaſury, with me there does not remain a doubt, that it is for their true intereſt, *that a plan ſhould be adopted which would leave trade free and open*, by which means, only, proper encouragement can be given to the Ryots and manufacturers to raiſe and make the aſſortments required for the Company.——*I well remember this country when trade was free, and the flouriſhing ſtate it was then in. With concern I now ſee its preſent ruinous condition, which I am convinced is greatly owing to the monopoly that has been made of late years, in the Company's name, of almoſt all the manufactures in the country. Let the trade be made free, and this fine country will ſoon recover itſelf, the revenues increaſe, and the Company procure as large an inveſtment as they can ſpare money to purchaſe, and theſe purchaſes will prove a benefit to the country, inſtead of tending to its ruin, as they now do to demonſtration.*

Gentlemen engaged in the mercantile department may object to opening the trade, from an apprehenſion, that the branch under their management will be affected by ſuch a ſtep. It may happen the Company may be obliged to pay a higher price for their goods, and that their inveſtment may fall ſomething ſhort this ſeaſon, by an immediate alteration in the mode of providing it. I ſay this may be the conſequence, although I do not believe it will; but even if it ſhould, *we ought not, in my opinion, to heſitate one moment in laying the trade open.*——The Company paying an additional price for their goods, purchaſed with the money of the revenues of the country they are bought in, is no object, eſpecially when we conſider the general benefit that will accrue from *removing all reſtraints on trade.* The revenues muſt increaſe, as well by the additional cultivation that will enſue, as by the duties paid to the government, *by the natives*, Armenians, *&c. who will then be able to purchaſe goods at the firſt hand, which liberty they have been deprived of for ſome years*; which has occaſioned a decreaſe in the collection of duties on goods under the * *Puchoutra* of *Murſhedabad* only, of three lacks of rupees at leaſt *per annum.* In former times, they collected between four and five lacks a year. The poor man who rented that office laſt year at two lacks, has been obliged to ſell his houſe and goods to make payment of 170,000 rupees: the other 30,000, is a loſs on the eſtimated revenue of the year.—This forms but a ſmall part of the prejudice and loſs that accrues from the preſent deſtructive ſyſtem of providing the Company's inveſtment; but they are ſo obvious, that I think it unneceſſary to ſay more on the ſubject. As to the objection, that the Company's inveſtment will fall ſhort this ſeaſon, I muſt obſerve, that the late prudent reſolution of the Preſident and Council to lay up a fund in their treaſury, will remove that objection in a great meaſure, was there any real ground for the apprehenſion. But when the ſeaſon is conſidered, and the large ſums that have been early advanced in all quarters, for

* The office where inland duties are collected.

the

the proviſion of goods on the Company's account, their inveſtment muſt be in ſuch forwardneſs, that there can be no danger, but goods to as large an amount as the Preſident and Council wiſh to have, may be eaſily provided. I therefore muſt think the preſent, the propereſt time for removing all reſtraints from trade; from which juſt meaſure conſiderable benefits will accrue to the whole country, the fruits of which will be reaped by our honourable employers in future, without their ſuffering any preſent material inconvenience. *The orders iſſued by the board to withdraw all perwânahs is a neceſſary* * *ſtep* towards further regulations, but unleſs followed by them, will anſwer no good end. *While thoſe employed in purchaſing for the Company, can make uſe of that plea to monopolize for their own benefit, the evil will ſtill remain as bad as ever*, only the advantage will be in fewer hands. Whether the people are *Engliſh* or natives it ſignifies little, while the power remains.—A difficult taſk it will prove to break through it entirely.

In my letter to you of the 11th *February*, I gave it as my opinion, that the Company ſhould provide their inveſtment by contracts with the merchants, as formerly. I think ſo ſtill; and that it will be the only mode that can be adopted to prevent an undue influence being uſed under the Company's name, and will be a means of *re-eſtabliſhing merchants in the country, of which you are ſenſible there is a great want*; and that having many creditable merchants and ſhroffs will be of general benefit. This is a ſubject you and I may further diſcuſs when we meet; *my grand object is to have the trade immediately free*, and I convey my ſentiments to you now, that, if you concur with me, no time may be loſt.

NUM. XLIII.

COPY of Mr. Verelſt's *Minute, recorded at a Select Committee held at* Calcutta, *the* 11*th* Auguſt 1769, *on the Trade of the Country.*

Fort William, the 11*th Auguſt* 1769.

At a Select Committee, preſent,
The Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident,
John Cartier,
Richard Smith,
James Alexander, and
Charles Floyer, Eſquires.

THE remarks contained in Mr. *Becher*'s letter to me of the 7th *May* laſt, reſpecting the preſent mode of the Company's trade in theſe provinces, as far as they extend, perfectly coincide with my own ſentiments, and I here ſubjoin my opinion of their trade in general.

* Query. Then why were ſuch perwânahs ever granted?

As the diffuſion and freedom of trade is the foundation of opulence and internal proſperity, ſo it is the principal object of all adminiſtrations to promote thoſe ends by wholeſome laws and regulations, that all ranks and degrees may be equally reſtrained from oppreſſion, and equally ſecured in their property. And the Company being now immediately the guardians of the welfare of theſe provinces, we cannot ſhew too jealous an attention to the regulation of their trade, by which alone they can be rendered flouriſhing. I therefore propoſe, that the preſent ſtate of their commerce be maturely weighed by this Committee, and their opinions ſubmitted to the Council, to be there finally paſſed into a reſolution.

The inſights which I acquired by my reſearches into the trade of the *Coſſimbazar* factory, and of its pernicious effects on the trade of the natives, muſt fill you, as it did me, with the moſt alarming ideas of the general ſtate of the country; and convince you, too plainly, of the principal cauſes of the decline which has began to ſhew itſelf. To conſider theſe evils, and apply adequate and timely remedies, is what I moſt earneſtly recommend; and am perſuaded, there needs no arguments from me, to induce you to form and enforce ſuch regulations as will leave the fair induſtrious merchant at full liberty, and in the undiſturbed enjoyment of that freedom which is the ſupport and life of commerce in every country, but more particularly eſſential and beneficial in this; *as its commerce from the moſt accurate calculations is a clear and intrinſic gain to it, to the whole amount of its annual exports.*

If after what I have here urged, and before inſtanced, the board will heartily and ſtrenuouſly concur in adopting meaſures for the revival of the true ſpirit of commerce, and the eſtabliſhment of ſeaſonable rules to carry it to its utmoſt extent, I will venture to treat the ſubject in a more comprehenſive manner, and, together with a general review of the evils, proceed to a particular conſideration of the remedies which they require, and which it is our duty to apply.

When the number of the board is compleated, and will admit of an occaſional department, I would propoſe, that gentlemen be appointed, from it, to examine into the preſent ſtate of the ſeveral *Aurungs*, and the conduct of all purchaſers, whether public or private, foreigners or natives, and to aſcertain the product of each article of merchandize, with the amount of the duties collected in each diſtrict.

That this inquiry may be ſatisfactory, preciſe, and perfect, it ſhould be extended to an accurate eſtimation of the produce and duties of three or four different years, at diſtinct intervals of time, not leſs than five years from one period to another. To which ſhould be annexed an account of the prices and quantities of each article at every particular period, the channels through which the ſeveral articles have been diffuſed to the merchants, and the proportion which fell to the ſhares of the *Engliſh*, *French*, *Dutch*, and other foreigners; as likewiſe what was left for the natives, and what retained for the proper conſumption of the diſtricts themſelves.

All

All theſe circumſtances ſhould be reſpectively and minutely ſtated at each period, that the order of time may be preſerved, and confuſion avoided in the compariſons and deductions which may be drawn from ſuch a review.

Another object of this department, which is perhaps more difficult in the inveſtigation, but is certainly more eſſential in its conſequences, ſhould be, to have the articles of merchandize upwards, from the hands of the cultivator, or manufacturer, through the ſeveral claſſes of purchaſers.

The price charged to the merchants by their agents is eaſily known; but it is a much harder taſk to fix what the manufacturer receives for the labour of his hands; for upon him the oppreſſion ſeems to fall the heavieſt, and in his condition it is, that the evil exiſts in its full force and violence.

When we conſider, that the prices of all ſorts of merchandize have been conſiderably advanced within theſe twenty years, that the quality of the manufactures is worſe, and the quantity diminiſhed; that public duties are decreaſed, and that the neceſſaries of life are as cheap to the cultivator or manufacturer now as they were formerly;—from what cauſes are we to derive the general diſcouragements to which the trade of theſe provinces is ſubjected, and by which they have ſuſtained ſo rapid a decline from their ancient opulence, as from a ſtate of unrivalled ſplendor, now to groan under the preſſures of indigence? The pernicious cauſe, which has produced ſuch reverſes in ſo ſhort a time, will, I believe, be found in the undue influence which has been in general exerted by the agents of *Europeans*, who joining the power which they borrowed from their maſters names and aſcendency, to their native proneneſs to oppreſs, became tyrants inſtead of merchants; impoſing goods upon the Ryots at an arbitrary rate, compelling them to part with their labour at an under-price, and ſpreading the baneful effects of monopoly and extortion on every ſide of them.

The poor manufacturer thus expoſed to complicated oppreſſions, and deprived of that open vent for his goods which he once enjoyed, and which, as it rewarded his labour, contributed to his induſtry; yields to the ſtrongeſt, loſes the art with the profits of his calling, and has ultimately recourſe to other means for obtaining his livelihood.

Hence it proceeds, that although goods of late years are both dearer and worſe in quality than they were twenty years ago, yet from theſe numberleſs impoſitions, and frauds, which I have but faintly deſcribed, the manufacturer does, in reality, receive leſs than he did formerly; and the excluſion of the native merchant, conſpiring with the above cauſe, the trade has centered in a few only, and the agents of theſe few (under the veil of an authority which they aſſume, without the knowledge of, or any benefit to their maſters) practiſe an inceſſant attention to their own intereſts, independently of every other conſideration or feeling.

I have before obſerved, that it will be the moſt difficult taſk to aſcertain what the manufacturer receives for the labour of his hands; and it is for this purpoſe chiefly, that I would recommend an inquiry to be made, by perſons of diſtinction in the ſervice. Evils ſo artfully concealed, and ſo ſucceſsfully executed, cannot be developed without a ſtruggle of artifice on the part of thoſe who thrive and grow wealthy by them; and a concurrence of intereſts

may unfortunately combine to deſtroy every means of retroſpection. Theſe have already prevented the claims of the ſuffering poor from reaching our ears; and may, if not vigilantly withſtood, ſtill continue to ſtifle them, until the decline of trade be converted into a general ſtagnation: and leave (beyond the neceſſity of the people) no other proof than its annihilation.—Agents and their accomplices may devour, until the public ruin ſets bounds to their career.

It is therefore, firſt, to be examined, what theſe agents' powers are; what their oppreſſions, and how exerciſed? And, ſecondly, how they are to be reſtrained in future?——The power of the ſaid agents has, from time to time, imperceptibly ſprung from the growing influence of the *Europeans* over a ſinking country; whoſe immediate advantages have been the object of every attention, both at home and here, in preference to every meaſure which might tend to its future proſperity. The fluctuating ſituation of affairs has led too much to direct advantages and ſelf-ſecurity, to heed a permanent protection and care of the induſtrious Ryots. Senſible of this, every agent, employed for the purpoſes of trade, has deemed it the epocha of his own fortune, and gradually introduced thoſe evils which are now become the ſubject of our conſideration.

The nature of the oppreſſion implies, in its firſt principle, the deſtruction of that freedom in the diffuſion of commerce, which, in a trading country, ought to be as unconfined as the air in which we breathe; and has been the cauſe of diverting and limiting the circulation of wealth to a few, to the total impoveriſhment of the reſt. Nor can we wonder, that from ſuch a principle has ſprung various, and perpetually-multiplying evils, unknown to us before. Theſe will be found under the heads of *nuzzeranahs*, brokerage, diſcount on rupees, intereſt on advances for cultivation and manufactures, and fines for non-compliance with terms of contract; all which are deducted, after an apparent and nominal rate of market-price has been previouſly affixed to the goods.

Theſe could not well take place without engaging a multitude of accomplices. As the agent lays taxes on the broker; the broker levies them from the cultivator, or manufacturer, and their reſpective dependants never fail partaking in the ſpoil. Even here the oppreſſion does not ceaſe, ſince, by artfully engaging them in advance, they are made a prey to their greedy creditors; increaſing poverty weighs them down; debts and corporal puniſhments ſilence their murmurs.

As I have juſt drawn the outlines of the ſeveral ſpecies of oppreſſion practiſed by theſe agents, and ſufficiently explained the abuſes of their uſurped and miſplaced authority, I ſhall ſubjoin ſome remarks on the means of reſtraining their licentiouſneſs.

In an open and public inquiry, the intereſts of this multitude of accomplices muſt be firſt removed, and their confederacy diſſolved, before the truth can be diſcovered. The inherent venality of the people, with all the arts of chicane will be exerted, to corrupt, or intimidate the oppreſſed; nay their hidden influence may operate ſo powerfully as to defeat many, if not all the intentions of ſuch a retroſpection.

I knew

I knew the manner of the people too well, not to be aware of this, when I was inſpecting into the *Coſſimbazar* inveſtment; and am convinced, that had I ſought for information in a public manner, I ſhould never have reached the depth, or found the true origin of the evil.

To proceed with any hopes of diſcovering the truth, a perſon unſuſpected, and totally unacquainted with the agents and the trade, ſhould be privately employed to engage a ſecond, and he a third, to purchaſe at the eſtabliſhed public-markets, as for his own uſe, ſamples of the different articles of trade. Others ſhould be employed in the ſame manner, and with the ſame caution, to obtain a ſight of ſuch adjuſtment of accounts as have paſſed between the firſt manufacturer, or cultivator, and the purchaſer, whether *pykar*, *dallal*, or merchant.

Theſe accounts, if authentic, will diſcloſe the firſt coſt; and the private purchaſe, as above recommended, will ſhew the market-price; which, compared with the agent's accounts, will clearly point out, whether the full and juſt value has been paid for the goods, and what are the expreſs advantages accruing to the agent and his accomplices.

Should the reſult of ſuch inveſtigation confirm my opinion, as to the power and abuſes of the agents, the abolition of their power muſt be attended with an immediate relief to trade; and in order to reſtore every fair and induſtrious trader to his natural rights and privileges, the reformation ſhould be purſued until every merchant, in every ſimilar circumſtance, be placed on an equal footing; and I know of no method that promiſes ſucceſs equal to the re-eſtabliſhment of the *Dadney* merchants, who deal on contract, under penalty; and who had not, when formerly employed, any other influence than what aroſe to them from their good conduct and fair dealing. Such a change, or rather ſuch a reſtoration of an old cuſtom, for the happy effects of which we may appeal to thoſe times, will, I am perſuaded, ſoon extinguiſh the falſe and miſchievous principle which now prevails; and inſtead of beholding the whole trade of the country engroſſed by the agents and their dependants, it will become, what it ought to be, an univerſal bleſſing.

It may be objected, that the Company will be obliged to pay a higher price for their goods, but that is by no means a clear or eſtabliſhed argument. And if it were ever ſo well proved, ſhall we ſacrifice the welfare of theſe provinces, which is the preſent ſupport, and muſt be the future dependance of the Company, to ſo ſordid an œconomy?

For my own part, I am convinced that, in the end, all ſorts of goods will be more readily procured, and at cheaper rates; for it will require but a very ſhort deduction to evince, that the exactions of agents, in the preſent mode, far exceed the moſt ſanguine expectations of the fair merchants. In the one caſe, the poor are deſpoiled by an unlimited power, to gratify an inſatiable agent, who ſecures himſelf from juſtice by the cuſtomary arts of the country. In the other caſe, the poor will be delivered from the grievance of that power. If wronged, their courſe to redreſs will not be obſtructed by an intermediate confederacy of villains; and the merchant, unuſed to the ſcenes of rapine, will be contented with the lawful gains of his induſtry.

The

The neceſſary conſequences of eſtabliſhing the *Dadney* merchants again, muſt then be an inſured ſecurity to the cultivator and manufacturer, of a certain and more extenſive ſale for their goods; freſh incitements to labour and ingenuity, and neceſſarily an increaſe in the quantity, an improvement in the quality, and a reduction in the price of all ſorts of commodities.——I cannot better illuſtrate and confirm what I have advanced, than by an inſtance which fell within my own obſervation at *Bauleah*. No ſooner were the regulations which I formed at *Bauleah* notified to the people, than the price of ſilk was lowered full eight annas in the ſeer, notwithſtanding the known decreaſe in the quantity produced in theſe diſtricts, and the number of merchants waiting to purchaſe that article. I do not reſt this fact ſolely on my own information, but alſo on the united teſtimonies of the chiefs of the *Dutch* and *French* factories; and as a further, and ſtill ſtronger inſtance of the high expectations which may be conceived from theſe regulations, properly enforced, I have aſſurances from *Mahommed Reza Khawn*, that on the firſt public intimation of a free trade, orders for the remittance of twenty lacks of rupees, from *Banaras*, *Agra*, *Dehly*, and *Lahore*, were ſent by the Mogul agents.

Arguments may be brought againſt the employment of *Dadney* merchants in the proviſion of an inveſtment, on the reaſons that were urged for their former diſmiſſion. But circumſtanced as this country now is, and changed as the intereſts of the Company have been ſince that period, theſe reaſons will be found ſuperficial; and an examination of the ſubject in a new light will not only deſtroy the force of every objection, but even furniſh me with freſh matter in the ſupport of what I have alledged. The increaſing dearneſs of cloth, and loſs of its fabrick, induced the board to ſearch into its real value at the *Aurungs*, and then endeavour at an improvement of its quality. Gomaſtahs, on the part of the Company employed at the *Aurungs*, promiſed the moſt direct information, and conſequently the moſt immediate redreſs of the evils. But, if I remember right, this plan was not intended for a fixed one, but merely temporary for the above purpoſes. However, finding that the cloths provided by the gomaſtahs were cheaper and better than thoſe provided by *Dadney*, the appointments have been continued, and the buſineſs on this plan become eſtabliſhed.

But if we conſider in a general point of view, how far the Company reaped any real advantage by this meaſure, I will venture to affirm, it was little or nothing, becauſe their import trade fell conſiderably, though their export trade was benefited. And on a reference to the ſales of the imports for three years preceding the diſmiſſion of the *Dadney* merchants, and a compariſon of them with the three ſucceeding years ſales, it will be found, that the loſs on the ſale of imports was conſiderable, ſet againſt the advantages gained on the inveſtment, by this new mode of proviſion. The caſe was this.——The board entered into contracts with the merchants, for the inveſtment, as early in the ſeaſon as they could; but the ſtate of their treaſury would ſeldom allow them to make any conſiderable early advances.——The further ſupplies were to be drawn from the annual importation of bullion from *England*.—The punctuality or delay of the advances to the merchants, depending

depending on the early or late arrival of our ſhips, their expectations were frequently diſappointed.——The merchants, to enable themſelves to fulfil their contracts, were neceſſitated to become large purchaſers at the Company's ſales of imports.——Theſe (to raiſe ready money) they often ſold again in the *Bazar* at a diſcount of fifteen or twenty *per cent.* a fact which is well known to many now in *Calcutta*, and who were themſelves engaged in that buſineſs. Thus aroſe a tax on the inveſtment proportionable to the loſs ſuſtained by the merchant, which he compenſated by the dearneſs and inferiority of his goods.——But this tax was not the only one; government bore hard upon them.—The paſſage of their goods from the *Aurungs* was impeded, and heavy duties were levied as the ſeaſon and our neceſſities made our demands more or leſs urgent.

When the buſineſs of the inveſtment was tranferred to agents, they went to market with money in their hands, and received ſtipulated wages for their ſervice. Their goods ought therefore, in juſtice, to be provided ſo much cheaper than thoſe of the merchants, as the amount of the difference of the tax above-mentioned, and the profits allowed to the merchants for undertaking the contracts.—But on the oppoſite ſide are to be placed the balances which are unavoidably incurred by the agents, with the riſk which attends the ſending of money to the *Aurungs*; and a ſtill more ſerious conſideration, that the evils introduced by them have occaſioned ſo great a riſe in the price of all commodities, that it will be found equivalent to the dearneſs of the merchants goods, when provided under the above difficulties and diſadvantages.

The ſcene is now changed. We may reap every benefit from, and avoid every inconvenience which can be charged to the mode of *Dadney* merchants. Our treaſury will always be in a condition to make ample and timely advances.—Our influence and power will ſecure them from impoſitions; and I doubt not, but a radical cure of the evils enumerated will reſtore the ſtate and prices of the manufactures to their former ſtandards of excellence and cheapneſs.

Having thus, gentlemen, laid before you the moſt obvious cauſes of decay in the trade of theſe provinces, and my propoſals for removing them, it will not be unworthy of this board to conſider, how far the continuance and growth of theſe diſorders may affect the grand intereſts of our employers.—And if you agree with me, that theſe intereſts are daily undermined, and muſt at length ſink under them, I cannot doubt your hearty aſſents to what I recommend.—The *Aurungs* dependant on *Calcutta* ſhould be viſited as ſoon as any members can be ſpared from the board, and a thorough ſearch ſhould be made, not only into the ſtate of the public trade, but into that belonging to private people; in which the artful connexions, the different gradations of oppreſſion, and the low connivance which cuſtom has introduced, ſhould be explored and deſtroyed. When the whole ſcene is thus laid open to your view, particular remedies may be applied to particular grievances; and your interpoſition, in being more direct, will become more effectual.

In the ſame manner, I would propoſe, that members of the board be appointed to view the ſeveral factories, to proceed upon the above maxims,

and

and to make minute reports of their proceedings to the board; that you may effect the desired reformation, and so provide for the security of the weak against the strong, that a perfect equality in trade may be established, and an unobstructed access to justice opened to the lowest individual.

I entirely agree with Mr. *Becher*, that there is the greatest room for improvement in the present administration of the revenue. There cannot be a more fatal misfortune befal any country than the destruction of confidence between the government and subject; nor can any power have a more pernicious tendency than that which is delegated, for an occasional service, to one who is an alien to the country by birth; and who, besides his indifference, or total disaffection to it, has these additional motives to a rapacious conduct; an insecure appointment, a variety of temptations, and the greatest opportunities of concealment and elusion. The *Aumils* are cankers to the industry of the Ryot; necessity alone has hitherto obliged us to employ them. The transactions of each day are so many instances of infidelity and unfitness for such trusts; and supposing that a few of them should possess some claims to favour and commendation, the extent of the provinces under their charge is too considerable to expect, or even hope for any great services from their best endeavours.

To take advantage of the capacity and abundant fertility of these provinces, it is necessary that every encouragement which is procurable by industry, and every indulgence which is compatible with the general welfare, should be held forth and insured to the Ryot by government. In a word, he should be taught to cultivate his lands, in the certain prospect of enjoying their fruits; and be convinced, that plenty and ease will be the never-failing rewards of his labour, and go hand in hand together.

The improvements which have been effected within a few years in *Burdwan*, present the most convincing proofs of the propriety of the plan which I introduced, *during my superintendance of that province.* When I first entered on the charge, the farmer had no expectations of retaining his lands beyond the short space of three years; and of course ransacked the country to avail himself of so transient a possession. The result of this insecurity and temporary interest was, that I found the greatest part of the country racked, and considerable tracks wholly depopulated.—I laid a foundation for destroying so prejudicial a spirit, by proposing, instead of short leases for three years only, grants for longer terms, or rather for perpetuities.

Greater prospects still were opened to the Ryots by my letting the lands at low annually-increasing rents, for four, or five years; and promising a preference and extension of the leases at the time of renewal.

By the attention of my successors, the system has produced the most salutary effects. The province of *Burdwan* exhibits the face of a garden, whilst the most fertile provinces of *Bengal* are declining for want of some such wholesome regulations. It is true, it cannot be made general at any one time, as so grand a reformation would throw the country into confusion, and the best part of the season might be consumed in restoring it to order, by which the revenues would be endangered. But this need not prevent us from diminishing the number of *Aumils*, as opportunities present themselves,

and

and by degrees eſtabliſhing the cuſtom of long leaſes throughout the provinces. How far the miniſters have already attempted it, by the advice of Mr. *Becher* and myſelf, is particularly mentioned in our letter. I then urged the precaution of it to the miniſters, as I do now to you, gentlemen, in the ſtrongeſt manner, as a ſource of the moſt beneficial conſequences to this country, and to our employers.

Conſidering how imperfect our accounts of particular diſtricts have hitherto been, and how uſeful an explicit knowledge of them is likely to prove in all deliberations which relate to the revenue, I engaged in a work, whilſt I was at the city, that might ſerve as a ſtanding record of all material tranſactions ſince the grant of the Dewannee. It was to have contained a ſummary hiſtory of each diſtrict, the form of its conſtitution, the nature of its ſoil and productions, the ſucceſſion of its zemindars, and connexions and revolutions in their families, and the changes which have happened in it from time to time. It would have alſo comprehended the antient diviſion of the lands; what portions have occaſionally been added to, or ſeparated from different pergunnahs and ſircars, and granted, through the channels of family-connexion, and undue favour, to particular people. Informations of this kind are much wanted; as they would enable us to re-annex ſuch portions of land, which would ſave ſuperfluous expences of collection, better ſecure the revenues, and render the taxation more impartial, and lighter upon the whole diſtricts; ſince the lands, ſo beſtowed, are generally the beſt and moſt profitable to the owners.

The urgency of the affair which occaſioned my ſudden return from the city, interrupted me in the progreſs of this work. I could wiſh to renew and complete it; but my diſtance from the records of government will not admit of thoſe frequent references which are requiſite, nor can I here penetrate into authentic facts, or avail myſelf of eſtabliſhed authorities. Permit me, nevertheleſs, to recommend to your attention the perfecting a work which will be ſo eſſentially neceſſary, particularly to gentlemen who may in future ſucceed to the ſtation of the *Durbar*, and poſſeſs but an imperfect knowledge of the ſtate of the country; in which caſe, it will open a ſhorter way to information, and in a manner ſupply the place of experience.

Upon the ſubject of record, there are ſome important circumſtances laid before you by Mr. *Becher* and myſelf. We have recommended, that perſons be appointed, on the part of the Company, to each office, to act jointly with the ſervants of the Nabob, and to take copies of all papers whatever. The perſons ſo employed ſhould be free from connexions with the dependants of the government, and as far removed as poſſible from their influence. At the end of every month copies ſhould be delivered over to the Reſident's office, and a third ſet tranſmitted, by the Reſident, to the Preſidency.

As he is the immediate repreſentative of the Company in his ſtation, no meaſures ſhould be taken without his privacy, and no reſolutions formed without conſulting his opinion. I can deviſe no method which will enable him to diſcharge his important truſt with more credit, or ſo effectually defend him from being miſled, as this regular inſpection of preſent occurrences,

and review of paſt tranſactions; which will be a conſtant check on the conduct of THE NABOB'S ADMINISTRATION.

Indeed the general ſtate of the records, at this time, ſeems to require many regulations. We now take an intimate part in the welfare of theſe provinces; and I apprehend, in our circumſtances, thoſe monuments of the progreſs of government, which muſt abound in ſerviceable materials, ought not to be neglected, or ſuffered to remain in a ſtate of obſcurity and perpetual danger of being loſt or mutilated.

As the *Perſian* language is now become the ſtudy of ſeveral young gentlemen in the ſervice, ſuch as have made a proficiency therein might be very uſefully employed, in forming a compleat tranſlation of all records which are come down to us. It will certainly be a work of time; but I doubt not, but that four or five years application of theſe gentlemen would put you in poſſeſſion of a perfect *Engliſh* copy; and, as the knowledge of the *Perſian* language becomes daily more neceſſary in the conducting the affairs of this government, I am perſuaded that you will continue to give proper encouragement to the attainment of it. Were the above work continued even ſo far as to include every particular diſtrict of note, it would approach nearer to what is wanted, and make the deſign ſtill more compleat.

When *Mahommed Reza Khawn* was in *Calcutta*, and during my ſtay at the city, he repreſented that numbers of ſhroffs and merchants, a ſet of men who were wont to ſerve the government on emergencies, and who muſt ever contribute to the increaſe of wealth and circulation, have been reduced to beggary, or forced to relinquiſh their buſineſs, ſince the revenues have been received according to the ſpecie in which they are collected.

My ſentiments on this head, together with Mr. *Becher*'s, are partly explained in our joint letters. I am clearly of opinion, that the former method of receiving the revenues in *Sicca* rupees, as negotiated by the ſhroffs and merchants, ought immediately to be renewed, and ever continued. The deduction of *Batta* is but of trifling ſignification, compared to the reſtoring of a multitude of uſeful people to their bread, and preſerving ſo many good and neceſſary ſubjects to theſe provinces. For the contraction of the ſphere of circulation was not the only loſs and inconvenience, which followed from the ſtagnation of the trade of theſe people. Our neighbours have profited by our misfortunes. As the ſhroffs and merchants loſt their hopes and expectations here, they ſought a new opening to their induſtry; eſtabliſhed houſes in the adjacent provinces, transferred the riches of *Bengal* thither, and cauſed them to flow through the territories of the king, *Sujah al Dowlah*, and other powers. That *Sujah al Dowlah*'s territories in particular wear ſuch an aſpect of affluence and increaſing proſperity, beyond our own, is, in a great meaſure, owing to the acceſſion of wealth they have received from the natives of *Bengal*, and which has proved a drain on this country that it cannot ſoon recover. The only expedient that can operate a reflux of this wealth is, to employ the ſhroffs and merchants again, in remitting the revenues, who will gladly re-aſſume their occupations, when they receive the ſame encouragement as they did formerly. The ſecurity of this government will induce them to fix their reſidence under it, rather than truſt to the ſuſpicious faith

and

and unſettled form of others; and even foreigners themſelves may, for the above reaſon, prefer it to their own.

To perſons who are ſtrangers to the natural diſpoſition of the natives of *Bengal*, and who poſſeſs no intimate knowledge of the principles of the government, it may appear abſurd to deduce ſuch a train of conſequences from the above cauſes. But when it is conſidered, that theſe people have conſtantly regarded the ſhroffs and merchants as their intermediate ſupport, as well as a neceſſary convenience in all their tranſactions; and that the cultivation of their lands has been hitherto carried on by their intervention, it will then be evident, that to put an entire ſtop to their buſineſs, muſt be attended with the worſt effects to the country in general, and produce a ſtagnation of ſpecie; which, joined to a real ſcarcity, would prove a ſevere ſtroke to the trade, the induſtry, and the revenues of theſe provinces. Until, therefore, our funds will admit our ſtanding in the ſtead of theſe ſhroffs and merchants, and the imports of bullion be equal to the purpoſes of a general circulation, they ought, and ſhould be continued, becauſe they alone are able, in the mean time, to ſupply, quicken, and ſupport the circulation.

In the letter before referred to, from Mr. *Becher* and myſelf, we have laid before you the nature of the claims, together with the miſerable indigence of * *Serfraz Khawn*'s family, and ſurviving dependants. I muſt beg leave to add, that their claims to the lands in queſtion are allowed by the greateſt enemies of their family, and their condition commiſerated by all who are acquainted with it. To behold *the undoubted* † *heir of this Subah* confined to ſo ſmall a pittance as is inſufficient even to ſupport nature, is, in the higheſt degree, unworthy their high rank; and give me leave to obſerve, unworthy alſo the reputation which the *Engliſh* government has acquired for acts of generoſity to the unfortunate. It has ſhewn acts of generoſity to many; let it not now refuſe an act of juſtice to thoſe who demand it ſo particularly at our hands.

(Signed) H. VERELST.

* *Serfraz Khawn* was the ſon of *Sujah Khawn*, who was the laſt lawful Nabob of *Bengal*, as may be collected (notwithſtanding the note in Mr. *Verelſt*'s book, page 16) from Mr. *Vanſittart*'s narrative, introduction, vol. I. page 5; and may be ſeen more at large in Mr. *Holwell*'s hiſtorical events, part I. pages 53 to 73.

† When he penned this minute, Mr. *Verelſt* ſeems to have forgot that Lord *Clive* had given the Subah of *Bengal* to *Meer Jaffier Ally Khawn*, in prejudice to the *undoubted heir* here alluded to; and when he wrote the 16th page of his book, he muſt have forgot that he had penned this minute.

NUM. XLIV.

COPY of *Mr.* Verelſt's *farewel Letter to the Board at* Calcutta, *with the Anſwer of his Succeſſor,* John Cartier, *Eſq; and the Members of the Council, as recorded on the Conſultations of the* 16*th* December 1769.

Fort William, 16*th December* 1769.

At a Conſultation, preſent,

The Right Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident,

John Cartier,
Claud Ruſſell,
Thomas Rumbold,
Charles Floyer,
Francis Hare, and
Joſeph Jekyll, Eſquires.

The Governor lays before the Board the following letter, which having been read, he took his leave of the Board, and withdrew.

To *John Cartier*, Eſq; and the Gentlemen of the Council at *Fort William.*

GENTLEMEN,

BEFORE I put an end to my long ſervices, it is a duty I conſider incumbent on me to contribute what I can to the future welfare of this ſettlement and country, our Company and nation. The experience and obſervations of more than twenty years may poſſibly claim ſome attention from the Court of Directors. I ſhall make no other apology for what I now lay before you, than the warmth of my zeal for a ſervice whoſe intereſt I ſhall ever ſupport with a grateful heart.

The ſubject is important, extenſive, and delicate. But as ſo many and various repreſentations have been given of it, ſome perverted by deſign, others through ignorance, it becomes more immediately the duty of the ſervants of the Company, who have had experience, to *communicate*, and the part of the Court of Directors to *confide* in them. I ſhall begin with a ſummary reference to the moſt intereſting degrees and variety of ſituation through which we have paſſed, from the original conſtitution of the Company, to your *preſent flouriſhing condition*; in the courſe of which many reflections muſt need occur to warn us from errors, and to expoſe imperfections. Nor is it ſurprizing, that we ſhould diſcover many, where ſuch a multitude of changes, connexions, engagements, and occupations has coincided, with the ſuddenneſs of our elevation, in diverting our thoughts from a more ſettled contemplation of ourſelves and of our own eſtabliſhment.

The

The aſcendency of the *Engliſh* in *Hindoſtan* is in the number of thoſe events which are diſtinguiſhed by a ſeries of fortunate and unforeſeen occurrences, not the reſult of any fixed or connected plan of policy. A colony of merchants, governed by laws and influenced by principles merely commercial, have acquired a political title and influence over a country which, for extent, populouſneſs, and annual revenue, may be compared to many the moſt conſequential ſtates of *Europe*. That commerce, which was once proſecuted in ſubjection to a tyrannical government, ever ready to take advantage of our weakneſs, and to conſtrue the ſlighteſt omiſſions into encroachments, is now but a ſecondary conſideration: and the native authority being too weak to controul the power which our agents derive from our name, the rights of the natives have been generally ſuperſeded. The ſubſtantial have declined riſking their property in trade under ſuch diſadvantages: and the poor and the induſtrious receive but a faint encouragement to their labours. We ſee, we feel the *increaſing poverty* of the country, from the *diminution of ſpecie*, as well as the ſlowneſs and partiality of it's circulation. Indeed, from the regulations we have made, the examples we have ordered, and the checks we have multiplied, I flatter myſelf, that the equality of commerce will finally be reſtored, and *the ſpirit of monopoly be deſtroyed*. But the body of the people are in a manner formed to wear the yoke. They poſſeſs nothing of the inquiſitiveneſs of the *European* nations, and *the moſt ſlender arts are ſufficient to obſcure their underſtandings*, and fit them for implicit obedience. Thoſe amongſt them who attain to employment in our ſervice, are generally men who have learnt ſo much of *our manners as to corrupt their own*. And joining an acute and verſatile genius to abundance of low cunning, they ſcarcely want the conſequence of the ENGLISH NAME to prompt them to every VILLAINY.

Whilſt the native government retained it's ſuperiority, *it's tribunals were acceſſible*; and though venality preſided at them, yet ſome ſhew of juſtice was maintained, and at times redreſs might be procured. The native government is now fallen in the eyes of the inhabitants; yet ſuch reſtrictions have hitherto ſo cramped our proceedings, as to prevent us from taking that *intimate part which our preſent* CHARACTER *and* DIGNITY *require*. The dependants of this *nominal government* have been the only inſtruments which we could employ, either to repreſs the enormities of our own agents, or to obtain the good opinion of the country-people. Their authority is in general overawed, their principles are too bad to anſwer the former purpoſe, and their eſtabliſhment and conduct too temporary and too weak for the latter: ſo that *the* Engliſh *name has been only all-powerful to do miſchief*; and a mortifying ſpectacle, of fraud and oppreſſion on the one hand, and imbecility on the other, has been exhibited to us, *without the power of* **interpoſing*.

* Will Mr. *Verelſt* publicly aver, that *Bengal*, *Bahar*, and part of *Oriſſa*, were not arbitrarily governed under the direction, authority, and influence of the Governor and Select Committee at *Calcutta*? or that the government and people of this kingdom were not impoſed on, and abuſed therein, by their pretending only to hold an office under the black Government? But Miniſters, Judges, and Legiſlators, are now publicly called on, in behalf of juſtice and the State, to decide on the guilt of ſuch treachery, tyranny, and rapine, as were practiſed under ſo wicked a diſguiſe.

The

The conſideration of theſe circumſtances muſt appear to the Court of Directors a principal object of their attention: a prudent deciſion thereon moſt nearly concerns the ſafety and proſperity of theſe important poſſeſſions. I hope therefore that my opinion in this place will not be deemed unneceſſary or ill-timed. There can be no doubt but the cauſe which has thus fruſtrated the beſt inclinations, is interwoven with our original conſtitution, *which muſt be enlarged as our ſphere of action is extended*, and our duty increaſed: otherwiſe we can never hope to direct the application of our own powers, and remove it from *the necks of the poor and uſeful, to the cheſtiſement of the tyrannical and rapacious.*

In the infancy of our ſettlement, with all our care and prudence, we could ill defend ourſelves from the forged accuſations or open attacks of the government. We looked no farther than the proviſion of the Company's inveſtment. We ſought advantages to our trade with the ingenuity, I may add ſelfiſhneſs, of merchants. All our laws were local and municipal, reaching no farther than our own exigencies and conveniences. All our ſervants and dependants were trained and educated in the ſame notions; the credit of a good bargain was the utmoſt ſcope of their ambition.

No ſooner did we begin to feel our own ſtrength, than our ſucceſſes followed one another with ſuch rapidity, as to advance us from a ſtate of obſcurity or mediocrity, to power, affluence, and national reputation. At length we ſaw ourſelves, though yet under the name of merchants, *maſters and adminiſtrators of a legiſlative authority. We began to* * *plan, direct, and inſpirit every meaſure of government, whether with regard to foreign treaties or domeſtic regulations. Wealth flowed in upon us from every ſide.* Our inveſtment was extended: we ſupported the whole trade of *India*, and from our reſources gave ſecurity to it in every quarter. But this was rather a temporary than a ſolid ſituation: and we ſoon diſcovered, that though our acquiſitions had been made in ſo ſhort a ſpace as ſcarcely to be paralleled, conſidering their immenſity, yet a well-digeſted ſyſtem was neceſſary to introduce permanency in our eſtabliſhment, the defects and imperfections of which were too apparent to eſcape our obſervation. Our dependants, accuſtomed to apply their talents to preſent gain, and to extract advantages from the ſmalleſt opening, aſſumed an importance proportionate to our ſucceſſes, grew immoderate, and diſclaimed their dependency on the native government.

In this ſituation we could not retreat without expoſing ourſelves to a ſecond ſtage of obſcurity, perhaps lower than the firſt. Our circumſtances impelled us forward: and the *grant* of the *Dewannee became as much an object of neceſſity as it was of* † *advantage.* Thus we inſenſibly broke down the barrier betwixt us and government: and the native grew uncertain where his obedience was due. Such a divided and complicated authority gave riſe to *oppreſſions* and *in-*

* Did this agree with the repreſentation he had juſt before made, of the imbecile ſtate of their adminiſtration? But Mr. *Verelſt*'s diſpatches, minutes, and ſpeeches, like thoſe of Lord *Clive*, abound with incongruities and miſrepreſentations; and, in fact, appear little better than the partial and diſguiſed efforts of low cunning, ornamented with the florid gloſſes of hypocritical cant and the moſt fulſome ſelf-applauſe.

† He ſhould have ſaid of *convenience, tyranny*, or *fraud.*

trigues

trigues unknown at any other period. The officers of government *caught* the *infection*; and, being * removed from every immediate controul, proceeded with ſtill greater audacity.

In the mean time, we were repeatedly and peremptorily forbid to avow any public authority over the officers of government in our own names, and injoined to retain our primitive characters of merchants with the moſt ſcrupulous delicacy.

The conſequences are but too evidently exemplified in *the decline of commerce and cultivation, the diminution of ſpecie, and the general diſtreſs of the poor: a train of evils which could only have ſprung from the* ABOVE CAUSES. Since every advantage of a long and uninterrupted tranquillity has been on our ſide, experience muſt convince the moſt prejudiced, that to hold vaſt poſſeſſions, and yet to act on the level of mere merchants, making immediate gain our firſt principle; to receive an immenſe revenue, without poſſeſſing an adequate protective power over the people who pay it; to be really intereſted in the grand and generous object, *the good of the whole*, and yet to purſue a *narrow and partial* end, are † PARADOXES *not to be reconciled, highly injurious to our national character, dangerous to the beſt-defended eſtabliſhment, and abſolutely bordering on inhumanity.*

The people give us the labour of their hands, and in return we owe them our protection. Common prudence, as well as the laws of ſociety, require, that thoſe obligations ſhould be reciprocal, or the tie muſt be ſoon diſſolved; for the firmeſt ſecurity of every government is the affections of the people: and for obtaining them there never perhaps preſented a more favourable opportunity, or more noble field than what the *Engliſh* poſſeſs in *Bengal*. *The mildneſs of our government, properly diffuſed over their provinces*, will form ſo conſpicuous a contraſt to *Mahommedan* deſpotiſm, that it muſt bind them to us and our cauſe for ever.

I have hitherto conſidered our intereſts in this country as built on a precarious foundation, *becauſe this cement was wanting to bind it:* and in this point of view I am particularly happy on the late reſolutions which have been taken to appoint *Engliſh* Superviſors, as an introduction to ſo deſirable an event. I could have wiſhed to have ſeen the execution of the plan during my continuance in the government: but permiſſion was denied to me before, and a neceſſary ‡ *regard to my health* makes it impoſſible now. However, I have this ſatisfaction left, that if I may judge from the unanimity with which you, gentlemen, have embraced the plan, neither *penetration* to *diſcern*, nor *fortitude* to *overcome every difficulty will be wanting*. I flatter myſelf that *by a juſt diſpenſation of rewards to thoſe who merit them, and timely checks on thoſe who require them*, you will bring ſo great and good a work to it's full maturity and perfection: a circumſtance which will reflect the higheſt honour on every individual who has either the direction or execution of it. At the ſame time I have the

* Who removed them from it?

† Yet had Mr. *Verelſt* a Select Committee-man's ſhare in the framing thoſe unconſtitutional, abſurd, and miſchievous paradoxes, and in carrying them likewiſe into practice.

‡ The very excuſe urged by Lord *Clive* for retreat, when his leading views had been accompliſhed.

pleaſure

pleaſure to reflect, that every ſtep you take in it will bring you ſo much nearer to the great end of ſecurity: for whilſt the army is maintained on it's preſent formidable footing, whilſt you continue your attention to the defence of the place, and the minds of the people grow more and more conciliated and attached, you can have nothing to fear.

But there is a rock, and a dangerous one, which requires the greateſt circumſpection to avoid. *We have ſtepped forth beyond all former precedents, or examples: we have the beſt and moſt laudable of all arguments to juſtify our conduct*: but it ſhould be remembered, that *we are reached that extreme line which to paſs would be an* OPEN AVOWAL OF SOVEREIGNTY.—*It ſhould be remembered we cannot be more without being* GREATER THAN SOUND POLICY ALLOWS.—*The intereſt of our employers at home, no leſs than our national character abroad, forbid it.—If we were, before the change, cautious of interfering with the native Government and of awakening the jealouſy of foreign nations, we ought now to redouble our* PRUDENCE. The change itſelf, ſuppoſing the greateſt forbearance on our parts, has an unavoidable tendency to deſtroy the name of the *Nizamut*, by which means, what might have been the happieſt event for the Company and nation, may become the ſource of *perplexities* and *jealouſies, if not the deprivation of the Company's privileges*. There is however a middle way, where moderation muſt guide and continue us; where we may walk with ſafety, advantage, and conſiſtence, without danger of too much confinement, or too much liberty. *Exteriors ſhould be regarded as eſſentials. Every order ſhould ſcrupulouſly wear the ſanction of the native Government, our dependance on it's indulgencies, our obedience to its commands, our* DELICACY *to it's* MINISTERS, *ſhould* * *appear moſt conſpicuous in all tranſactions either of buſineſs or ceremony*. I am not ignorant how difficult it is always to preſerve and effect that temperate rule of conduct which I mention, *when the power and direction of all departments ſo* ENTIRELY CONCENTRE IN YOUR BOARD: and it may be more difficult to produce a proper conformity in the ſupraviſors. For theſe reaſons I am of opinion, that the whole weight and vigilance of this Board ſhould be exerted to check the moſt trifling variation from this line, and to preſerve the *idea* of the *native Government*, it's *dignity* and *ſuperiority* OVER ALL, as intire and unimpaired as poſſible.

Without departing from theſe maxims, we ſhall have ſufficient opportunities to anſwer ALL OUR VIEWS. Our powers will not be leſs efficacious, in being exerciſed with prudence.—The ſupraviſorſhips will afford you a ſet of ſervants capable of ſucceeding in their turn to the firſt offices. That ſtation will introduce them into a perfect knowledge of the laws and cuſtoms of the country: they will form a judgment, upon the ſpot, of the diſpoſitions of the people. They will ſee, with their own eyes, the prevalent abuſes of office, the villainy of agents, and, in ſhort, the true ſprings of the miſery or happineſs of the country. Thus much may be advanced with confidence, that if this meaſure meets with the neceſſary ſupport and encouragement, there

* This ſort of attempt to govern an Empire *inviſibly*, was ſuch a farce as perhaps was never before exhibited on the theatre of politics: and it ought ſincerely to be hoped by every honeſt man, for the benefit of mankind, that the *Britiſh* legiſlature will not long ſuffer the continuance of this exhibition.

cannot fail of being a regular ſucceſſion of able and vigorous adminiſtrators. —The ſervice at preſent affords many young men of promiſing parts and abilities. As the ſupraviſorſhip may be called a nurſery for them, in reſpect to the government of the country, ſo in like manner, their experience in commercial matters before they reach council, muſt bring them acquainted with our commercial intereſts. And as theſe are the grand foundation and ſupport of our proſperity, they muſt be deemed the eſſential part of their education.

But from what has been ſaid of the characters of the people who are employed by us, or immediately for us, every thinking perſon muſt be ſenſible of one capital defect in our government; that the members derive their ſole advantage from commerce, carried on through black agents, who again employ a numerous band of retainers.—It is notorious, that at times the agents of the loweſt ſervants have domineered over the ryots; and kept the officers of government in a ſtate of awe and ſubjection; and it cannot be ſuppoſed that more reſpectable names are not equally miſapplied. It would be as eaſy to change the genius and manners of the people, as to prevent the banyans and followers of men in ſtation from abuſing their maſters names. Chaſtiſement may deter the oppreſſor for a moment: but in ſuch caſes, the ſervility of the people muſt be removed before oppreſſion can be eradicated. *Perwânahs have been recalled and ſuppreſſed. Excellent effects will doubtleſs flow from it* *. But the idea of names and authority will ſtill be held up by rapacious agents for their own ends. The concluſion I draw from it is this, that was it poſſible to form an adminiſtration totally free from commercial views and connexions, reſtrictive laws would and muſt have their courſe; whereas banyans and agents, by the ſpirit with which they act, and the force of their example, will always obſtruct their good effects themſelves, and propagate a diſreſpect and deluſion of them in others.

To form ſuch adminiſtration, I not only think poſſible, but eaſy. I would propoſe, that from the admiſſion of a member he put an entire concluſion to *all* trade; and in lieu of it, that he receive a certain allowance, chargeable upon the country: which allowance ſhould be augmented in proportion to the improvements made, and it's internal proſperity. A method of reward the moſt honourable that can be deviſed for thoſe that are to receive it, and the moſt beneficial to the community. Being unincumbered with the conſequences, anxieties, and relations of private affairs, the members of adminiſtration will have a more undivided attention to the public, and their orders be more thoroughly reſpected, and more vigorouſly obeyed.

I am come to an obſervation which ſeems to merit your particular attention. You are no ſtrangers to the want of method which reigns in the affairs of this government. The whole weight of buſineſs is confined to two departments, the Committee and Council. Our time is conſequently taken up with preparing, debating, and dictating on the ſubjects which come before us. Our deciſions are retarded, and the ſprings of government relaxed. The attention and memory are unneceſſarily burthened. Neither are thoſe depart-

* Query. Why were they inſtituted?

ments thoroughly defined, or underſtood. If we may judge from comparing different orders and paragraphs of the general letters, *the Court of Directors are at a loſs where the preciſe line of each is drawn; ſometimes attributing to the Council what belongs to the Committee: and again transferring from one to the other, without rule or diſtinction.* It is well worth your conſideration, Gentlemen, to adopt ſome better plan, for the eaſe of Adminiſtration, and for the diſpatch of buſineſs. This can only be done by dividing the burden which now reſts upon a ſingle body, amongſt ſeparate departments, and bringing each object of deliberation into a compact compaſs. Was the number of the Board increaſed to ſixteen, the buſineſs diſtributed to diſtinct Committees, and whatever is prepared in their inferior departments finally referred to the Preſident and Council, it is obvious how much utility and convenience would reſult from it. The Governor, who is the head of all departments, and ought to ſuperintend the whole, would be much relieved from that diverſity of objects which, as things are at preſent conducted, he is obliged to comprehend at one view, and that generally at a time when his conſtitution has been previouſly impaired by a long reſidence in the climate. You, Gentlemen, would not meet to debate or to ſettle forms, but at once to decide. Every member of Adminiſtration would have equal and conſtant opportunities of ſeeing the whole progreſs of public affairs, and would acquire a general knowledge, which would qualify him indiſcriminately for any ſtation.

Great alterations have taken place in this Government within theſe few years, in reſpect to the extent of public buſineſs; but it has been a conſtant accumulation on the Governor, the Council, and Committee. It is now becoming too unwieldy a burden: and I can ſee no meaſure better calculated to alleviate that burden than what I have here propoſed and recommended.

I ſhall moſt readily give my opinion on the exact limits of each department, and the nature and extent of the buſineſs to be tranſacted in them: and with equal alacrity I ſhall endeavour to explain more particularly, the manner of eſtimating the improvements of the country, and from them conferring the rewards, ſhould the outlines of ſuch a ſyſtem of government meet with the approval of the Court of Directors.

The Court of Directors having, in their laſt letter of the 17th of *March*, thought proper to animadvert, in the 84th and ſucceeding paragraphs, on the eſtabliſhing a ſyſtem of prudence and œconomy in the general expences of the Preſidency, in order likewiſe to produce moderation amongſt indiviuals, and illuſtrated ſuch attention by ſome remarks on expences which I have thought it expedient to put them to, I ſhall beg leave to reply, through your Board, to thoſe particulars which ſeem pointed at my conduct.

The expences of ſo extenſive a ſettlement muſt ever be conſiderable. The territories which you have acquired muſt be defended, and the fruits of them ſecured with more or leſs charge, as the care of them becomes more or leſs intereſting. Your force has been increaſed for this purpoſe: our neighbours have added to the load by the equal attention we have paid to their preſervation and ſupport, as well as our own. The conſiderable progreſs made of late in your fortifications and inveſtments, and a variety of other

circumſtances,

circumſtances, which are fully ſtated on our records, muſt well account for all diſburſements, and manifeſt the uſe and expediency of each.

Had the Directors ſelected any particular and material head of public charges, where wanton profuſion was viſible without excuſe, mere inattention without policy, a direct reply and vindication might be attempted. But I am concerned to find the Directors taken up with cenſuring minute articles of the Governor's public expence, and thoſe only, contenting themſelves with general reflections on the moſt eſſential articles of public œconomy. The former, ſuppoſing ſome improprieties to have crept in, can ſcarcely be called an object of concern to them, in compariſon of the latter, which is of the laſt importance to the Company and nation. I ſhall only inſtance one point, which is the moſt ſtriking, the moſt conſequential to the public, and the moſt meritorious to their ſervants. I mean the reduction of the military expences, which I may call the grand ſpring of ſecurity to theſe poſſeſſions. When the army of this eſtabliſhment was little more than a third of its preſent ſtrength, the enormous ſum of from ten to twelve lacks *per* month went to maintain it: a ſum which is more than equal to the whole expence of the Preſidency at this period. A reference to former accounts will demonſtrate this. The Directors themſelves bear teſtimony to it, in the 24th paragraph of their letter of the 17th *May per Mercury*. But to bring it to a ſtill more poſitive and undeniable proof, I here lay before you the muſters of the army, as they ſtood on the general returns at that time of profuſion; and likewiſe of the medium number, as they have ſtood during my government. *I ſhall ever think it an honour to have been a member of the Committee which firſt ſowed the ſeeds of œconomy, and which perſevered with ſuch ſignal ſucceſs.* I ſhall ever allow the higheſt praiſe to all perſons who aſſiſted and diſtinguiſhed themſelves in that great and laborious work: and it is with pleaſure I here confeſs, and acknowledge their merits.

After ſo long a courſe of the moſt faithful ſervices, to have my judgment and zeal for the Company's intereſt arraigned, is what I did not expect. A ſcrutiny into my conduct is what I ever wiſhed might be the criterion of my ſervices, but I little imagined that, even without that ſcrutiny, my conduct would ever give a cauſe for cenſure.

I could recapitulate proofs of my judgment and zeal for their intereſts, which already ſtand recorded, and of which they have long been and ſtill are reaping the fruits; but I forbear, becauſe *it would be departing from my character to advance any thing in my own applauſe*, unleſs where I am materially accuſed, and neceſſitated to a more particular defence of my conduct. The Court of Directors muſt excuſe my warmth where facts are ſo obvious, reflections ſo miſplaced.

They recommend to us to introduce *Engliſh* ſimplicity, in oppoſition to the *Oriental* ſplendor. That ſuch an event is truly deſirable, I agree. That ſuch a ſyſtem has been adopted, and is now purſuing, I appeal to this board. But that it is eaſy, or practicable at once to eſtabliſh and enforce it, no perſon of experience can inſiſt.—Shall we, a handful of ſtrangers, whoſe name and power were founded as yeſterday; whoſe ſituation is in the midſt of a great

and populous nation, and that nation ſurrounded by others, habituated to the ſame rules, led by the ſame genius; ſhall we pretend to over-rule ſuch confirmed prejudices, and commence arbiters of manners? our attempt would be ridiculed, we ourſelves would be deſpiſed, and the natives, inſtead of being conciliated, would be eſtranged from us, and loſe their reſpect for our nation. Is it not enough, that, in ſo ſhort a time, we have benefited in every advantage they or the country can afford us?—but muſt we deprive them of thoſe few indulgencies which their way of life yet makes neceſſary—their way of thinking dear to them?

For the education of a child or family, theſe principles might be ſafely practiſed. The deſign would be reaſonable. But a whole people cannot ſo ſuddenly, nor ſo eaſily be induced to forget the manners of their forefathers; and that in the very characteriſtic, and moſt favourite points wherein they have been bred: to adopt thoſe of ſtrangers, which have no reſemblance, or rather exhibit an entire contraſt. A ſeries of years can alone produce this change.—If a governor ſhould wiſh to accompliſh it before the people are ripe for it, he may loſe his dignity, but the people will yet retain their prejudices. He muſt lead, not drive them. He need not conform himſelf to the œconomy preſcribed by the Directors, for that would diſguſt—nor ſhould he launch into all their own ſuperfluities; but muſt humour ſome to invite them to relinquiſh others. This is the plan I have purſued, and think ſucceſsfully: by continuing it, the natives may, in proceſs of time, be brought to aſſimilate with us in all inſtances, as they now do in ſome.

You, gentlemen, who have long known me, will, I flatter myſelf, bear witneſs to *that œconomy which I have ever ſupported* reſpecting myſelf, and I ſhould be ſorry if any charge could be brought againſt me of the indulgence of any perſonal wiſh or particular vanity. Had I regulated my expences on the principles of *European* œconomy, I muſt have appeared in an inferior light to many whom it is my duty to direct and controul—a very improper diſtinction would have taken place; they would have aroſe as much above their real importance, as I ſhould have fallen ſhort of mine.—Conſcious of having acted for the advantage of the ſervice, without being laviſhly profuſe, or impolitically frugal, whether I meet with praiſe or cenſure, I cannot accuſe myſelf.

Amongſt other things, the Directors have expreſſed great diſpleaſure at the *general allowance of duſtucks to free Merchants*, and reſtricted the Governor from granting any in future. In fact, this is to augment his expences whilſt they exclaim at their being too great. I am truly concerned, gentlemen, that farther explanation ſhould be neceſſary. I would not willingly blend matters of a private nature with public apology, but where ſuch little confidence is placed in the diſcretion of a man, to whom you intruſt your moſt valuable intereſts, as to abridge him of *an *old prerogative*, which has been almoſt THE ONLY MEANS OF REWARDING PARTICULAR MERITS, I am bound, not only by my duty, as Governor, but by my feelings as a man, to ſpeak plainly.

* But contrary to ſtanding orders.

In

In a POLITICAL SENSE, how many occaſions may happen where the *zeal of individuals may recommend them to notice and favour?*—This indulgence was the only mark of favour which the Governor had left to beſtow, except at his own immediate expence. In a humane ſenſe, was ſo total an excluſion to enſue, how is it poſſible that the governor of a ſettlement, like this, can afford ſubſiſtence to the numbers daily pouring into it from home? When I ſay numbers, *I may refer to the Directors and the friends of Directors, on the teſt of their own recommendations.*—Few of the bearers of theſe come provided; and at any rate, that avenue being cloſed, can the Governor ſuffer thoſe who are ſo warmly recommended and ſo connected, to want marks of his civility?—Muſt not this be attended with expence proportionable to the increaſe of the ſettlement? Thoſe who come out under the denomination of free merchants and free mariners, who have employments to ſeek in this low ſtate of trade, can they ſit repining at the laſt ſtage of indigence and diſtreſs?—Theſe are taxes which more or leſs muſt fall on him, if he ſupports the dignity of his important office, or anſwers the expectations of the Directors themſelves.—Theſe are duties which no man of humanity can neglect. There is yet another conſideration: the Governor requires aſſiſtants in different departments, and theſe aſſiſtants ſhould be men of abilities and confidence: they are to be ſought wherever they can be found, nor can it be pretended that they can always be found in a certain line.—Rewards muſt follow ſervices—and unleſs it be in the exertion of that prerogative of which the Governor is now abridged, from whence are thoſe rewards to be extracted?

The Directors more expreſsly cenſure the expence of four entertainments, the reception of the Nabob, and the Preſident's viſit to *Murſhedabad*. As to the firſt, I have ſufficiently evinced the propriety, nay, neceſſity of acting as I did; all I ſhall further urge, is, no ſingle article of expence has been charged to the Company, but what has been abſolutely incurred. As to my viſit to *Murſhedabad*, ſomething, indeed, has been added to the account, from my going by land, and not by water. But when it is conſidered, that going by land was an exerciſe my health required, I little thought a trifling regard to it, whilſt employed on their immediate ſervice, could have become a ſubject to have been pointed out and condemned. But to bring the argument into a ſtronger light, *was I to draw a fair compariſon between the advantages accruing to the Company from thoſe viſits, and the expences attending them, I own I ſhould ſurvey the balance with pleaſure, but not without a bluſh.*

A remark is alſo made on the preſents given to the Vakeels of *Sujah al Dowlah* and *Moneer al Dowlah*; and the Directors would have theſe preſents confined to ſtated value and times. I muſt beg leave to obſerve, occaſions may ariſe when either a civility is to be returned, ſervices rewarded, or an ally confirmed. It is impoſſible to fix any periods for ſuch tranſactions; and it ſeems in every ſenſe neceſſary that the Governor ſhould be left at liberty to increaſe or decreaſe, to withhold, or confer at pleaſure; or inconveniencies to your ſervice, your name, and character (which would be hurt through him) would reſult from it.

The preſents to the King's Vakeel were made on the firſt adjuſtment of the tribute-accounts, in *September* 1767. His Majeſty had before thought proper

per to make a public acknowledgment of his being ſatisfied with our zeal, attachment, and ſteadineſs to our engagements; and I did not think, at ſuch a time, that a backwardneſs on my part would have been proper, political, or well received in *Hindoſtan*; more particularly as it would have thrown a ſlight on the very men who had been and were the immediate channels of negotiation between the King and us.

Servants and other charges afford matter of diſcontent. I can only ſay, that I have followed the example of my predeceſſors; and that extraordinary ſervants and charges, beyond thoſe of a private family, are inſeparable from a Governor's ſtation; otherwiſe how can his buſineſs be tranſacted, a public table maintained, and foreigners received, and treated with becoming dignity? Every private company trading to theſe parts (though indigent to ours) allow them, and give public reputation the preference to private œconomy.

I am at a loſs how to argue on ſuch a ſubject. Had the Directors ſignified their diſapprobation earlier, it would then have been in my option to diſmiſs or retain, to continue or not, in a ſervice which I could not ſupport with the neceſſary exterior honours.—As it is, I can only offer my opinion, that a Governor cannot act in character without incurring public charges. How far the emoluments with which you have indulged him, enable his private purſe to defray them, the accounts now ſubmitted to you of receipts and expences, will amply diſcover. *It is well known, that Lord* Clive *received the commiſſion to* September 1767, *which was nine months of my* * *government*. The amount of my ſalary and commiſſion from that time do but little exceed my expences, much leſs ſupply a reward for my ſervices. The accounts of my nuzzeranahs are alſo laid before you, which, added to my ſalary and commiſſion, include every *item* which I owe to my ſtation. They are teſtimonies of reſpect and eſteem eſtabliſhed throughout *Aſia*, and cannot be refuſed without certainty of offence. I have often checked, never encouraged them; and whenever a preſent, not a compliment, ſeemed to be the aim, I have firmly and ſteadily rejected them. If ſome articles appear ſomewhat above the limitations of the covenants, it muſt be noted, they were preſented on particular occaſions by the King, the Vizier, the Nabob, or the principal Chiefs; and conſidering they came from ſuch diſtinguiſhed rank, may, from the ſmallneſs of the amount, ſerve as an inſtance of the diſcouragement which I have conſtantly given to the cuſtom. Had I ſhewn the ſmalleſt inclination, or even withheld my diſſent when they were offered, the greateſt rapacity might have been ſatiated, the moſt exorbitant wiſh gratified.

I do not mean to compliment my own moderation, or to impeach the candour of the Court of Directors; I only wiſh to remove certain prejudices which are ariſen amongſt the gentlemen at home, from a falſe eſtimate of things; in which I do not ſo much plead my own cauſe, as the cauſe of thoſe who are to come after me.

I have fairly and explicitly ſtated the amount of my public expences; but excluſive of theſe, there are benefactions, charities, and acknowledg-

* Query. Whoſe fault was that? See Page 237.

ments

ments which propriety requires ſhould be hid from the world. I can with truth affirm, they almoſt, if not wholly, equal the balance of ſalary, commiſſions, and nuzzeranahs together: ſuch is the undiſguiſed account between the public and me.—Whether, when it appears how little has accrued to me from three years management of ſo great and complex a machine of government, the public or I am the debtor, is not for me, but for the Directors and the impartial voice of mankind to determine.

After all, gentlemen, I have but one more remark to make: that my conduct ever before met with the approbation of the Court of Directors. I was happy in the applauſe. I wiſhed; I gave up every other conſideration, to deſerve it. However, I have yet this ſatisfaction left, that my ſtay in *India* has afforded me the opportunity of having their ſentiments, and explaining that part of my ſervices which, being the moſt important, I had flattered myſelf would have been the moſt approved.

My ſervant, *Gocul Ghoſaul*, has been already recommended to you by the Collector General for his good behaviour in that department, and his thorough knowledge of the buſineſs of revenue. He has likewiſe, gentlemen, in many places been employed in that branch, under my management and inſpection. From his abilities, which are well known; from his integrity, which has gained him the good opinion of his own countrymen as well as ours; and from every knowledge of him that a courſe of twenty years ſervice can give, I will venture to recommend him to your notice and favour.

Whatever the ſentiments of the Court of Directors may be, my zeal continues unabated; and permit me to aſſure you, gentlemen, that though I am now laying down the ſervice, I ſhall ever retain the warmeſt wiſhes for its proſperity, and in every capacity ſtudy to promote its intereſts. No one will receive greater ſatisfaction than myſelf to hear your councils are bleſſed with that unanimity which is ſo eſſential to good government, and that your reſolutions are attended with honour to yourſelves, as well as advantage to the public. I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Fort William,
16*th December* 1769.

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,
(Signed) H. VERELST.

Agreed, That the following Addreſs be preſented to Mr. *Verelſt*:

To the Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſquire, Preſident and Governor of *Fort William*.

Honourable Sir,

AT the ſame time that we may regret your departure, we cannot but have a ſenſible pleaſure in reflecting, that you leave this country with ſo much credit and honour to yourſelf, whether in a public or private capacity.

It

It were needleſs for us to expreſs our ſenſe of the zeal and attachment you have ſhewn for the ſervice: theſe have been ſufficiently manifeſted, and do not require this teſtimony; but permit us, Sir, to aſſure you of our warm hopes for the re-eſtabliſhment of your health, which has ſo much ſuffered under the weighty load of this government; and that a favourable paſſage may reſtore you to your native climate, to enjoy the juſt reward of ſo many years faithful ſervices.

The *moderate ſum* which your nuzzeranahs amount to, is not only a ſtrong proof of the integrity of your actions, and that in accepting them you did it merely in compliance with an unavoidable cuſtom of the country, but a convincing one, that you diſcouraged this cuſtom, and we wiſh, Sir, it was abſolutely and totally in our power to grant you this ſum.

How far our authority may, or does extend in a point of this nature; or whether the power of permitting a governor to accept theſe preſents for his own uſe is veſted ſolely in the Court of Directors, we own ourſelves at a loſs to determine. But as far as it reſts with us, we moſt readily give our conſent to your appropriating them to your own uſe; nor have we a doubt but the Court of Directors will as readily give theirs.

Fort William, 16*th December* 1769. We are with eſteem and regard, *&c. &c.*

Ordered, That the accounts of receipts and diſburſements delivered in by the preſident, and the ſtate of the army mentioned in his letter, be entered after the conſultation.

(Signed) JOHN CARTIER,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
CHARLES FFLOYER,
FRANCIS HARE,
JOSEPH JEKYLL.

NUM. XLV.

COPY of a Letter from the Court of East India *Directors to the Preſident and Select Committee at* Calcutta. *Dated the* 23*d* March 1770.

Our Preſident and Select Committee at *Fort William*, in *Bengal*.

PAR. I. THE General Court of Proprietors having thought fit to grant a commiſſion to *Henry Vanſittart*, *Luke Scrafton*, and *Francis Ford*, Eſquires, for the purpoſe of correcting the many abuſes and miſmanagements which have been inſtanced in the conduct of our ſervants in the *Eaſt Indies*;

Indies; we ſhall not at preſent give ſuch full directions as we otherwiſe ſhould, but only, in general, make ſuch obſervations upon your advices received laſt ſeaſon, as require particular attention.

II. By the *Thames*, we received copy of a letter from the Select Committee, at your Preſidency, to the Governor and Council at *Fort St. George*, dated the 3d of *June* 1769, adviſing, that the *French* had begun a work round their town at *Chandernagore*, which you deemed an abſolute infraction of the treaty of peace; and as they continued deaf to your remonſtrances, you apprehended you ſhould be obliged to demoliſh it. We immediately communicated the ſame to the Right Honourable Lord Viſcount *Weymouth*, one of his Majeſty's principal Secretaries of State, who repreſented the fact, as ſtated in the above letter, to the Count *de Chatelet*, his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty's Ambaſſador. His Excellency did not give the leaſt credit to any attempt of erecting fortifications in *Bengal*: a meaſure ſo contrary to treaty, and to the orders of his court: and incloſed you will receive copies of the letters that paſſed upon the occaſion, for your farther information. We have alſo examined Lieutenant-colonel *Martin*, lately arrived in a *French* ſhip: who reports, that he was at *Chandernagore* ſo late as *February* 1769, when they were only carrying on the ditch round the town, in order to drain the lands, to preſerve the health of the inhabitants; and that it could not ſerve for the purpoſe of a fortification, which is mentioned in the minutes of your Select Committee of the 10th of *February* 1768. Yet, as you apprehend you ſhall be under the neceſſity of demoliſhing the works mentioned in your ſaid letter, it is highly neceſſary you ſhould acquaint us, by the earlieſt opportunity, of the real ſtate of this diſpute, that we may lay the ſame before his Majeſty's Miniſters; and therefore we expect, and direct, that you tranſmit to us, by the firſt conveyance, all correſpondence that has paſt, as well as every other information that you can procure, relative to the erecting of fortifications at *Chandernagore*. And in caſe any works are, or ſhall be erected, contrary to the treaty of peace, we poſitively direct that you demand the demolition thereof; and, in caſe of their refuſal, that you take ſuch ſteps to reduce the fortifications as you think proper, never omitting to give us, from time to time, the fulleſt information relating thereto.—We muſt at the ſame time acquaint you, that, as we are deſirous to ſhew that friendſhip to the *French* nation which the amity ſubſiſting betwixt the two crowns demands, you muſt not deny them any conveniencies which may be neceſſary for the preſervation of the health of the inhabitants of *Chandernagore*.

III. In anſwer to the 34th paragraph of your Select Committee's letter of the 13th *September*, we intirely approve of the meaſure you propoſe therein.

IV. At a time when you were continually complaining of the low ſtate of your treaſury, and of your inability of ſending ſupplies to *China*; and when the *Carnatick* war, an indiſpenſible drain to you, was at full length, little did we expect to ſee ſuch an internal diſſipation of your remaining reſources, as appears by the preſents made, under your deputation to *Sujah al Dowlah*, amounting together to near four lacks of rupees. And this too when no advantage (at leaſt to the Company) either preſent or in proſpect, could be expected from ſuch exceſs of profuſion; as you ſay yourſelves, in your Se-

lect committee's letter by the *Shrewſbury*, that *Sujah al Dowlah* had not reduced his forces, and you did not think it prudent or politic to oblige him.

V. One circumſtance we obſerve on your conſultations, that theſe preſents are ſaid to have been made with the utmoſt regard to frugality: and it is there ſuggeſted, that the Company's ſituation, and the rank of the perſonages to whom they were given, were ſufficient to prove the propriety, if not the neceſſity of them. But we are ſorry to ſay, we have as little evidence of the one as of the other. We are, indeed, ſenſible how much the taſte for luxury and pomp affects the minds of Eaſtern Princes: but we are ſurprized that *Aſiatic* manners ſhould operate on our ſervants ſo far, as to lead them to ſuppoſe the honour of the Company concerned in the indulgence of it.—For to us it is certain, that the moſt reſpectable light in which the Company can appear, is in the ſuperior prudence of your adminiſtration, and our having in poſſeſſion the means of ſupporting the rank and influence we hold in the empire of *Hindoſtan*. Therefore, how grateful ſoever your preſents may have been to the receivers of them, our importance muſt be reduced, even in their eyes, in proportion as our reſources are diminiſhed.

VI. Having thus ſhewn the inſufficiency of the arguments produced in juſtification of the profuſion of your deputies, we ſhall here direct and require, that on all occaſions where eaſtern cuſtoms ſhall have made preſents expedient, you confine your gifts within the moſt moderate bounds, and not extend them on account of any ſuppoſed ability, much leſs from the idea of ſupporting the rank or honour of the Company.

VII. While your conduct in this reſpect paſſed under our conſideration, we could not but reflect on what returns cuſtom, gratitude, or vanity might induce theſe potentates to offer on ſuch an occaſion. But as we have reſtricted our ſervants from receiving any preſents, or gratifications, above a certain value, we are unwilling to ſuppoſe that ſuch of them as were employed in your deputation would ſlight our orders, or forfeit their own honour ſo far as to accept of any preſent not warranted by us. However, we cannot forego this opportunity to renew our former order, and to aſſure our ſervants in general, that on any deviation in this reſpect, we ſhall not fail to put their covenants in full force.

VIII. In your correſpondence with our Preſidency of *Madraſs*, we find a letter of the 21ſt *March* 1769, in reply to theirs of the 1ſt of that month, the ſtyle of which not a little ſurprizes us, while the ſubject of it fills us with ſerious and alarming apprehenſions.

IX. In reſpect to the manner in which you have thought fit to ſpeak to ſuch orders as you had received from us, we ſhould be wanting to ourſelves, as well as to that body whoſe repreſentatives we are, did we paſs unnoticed the unbecoming freedom of your expreſſions; where you treat our expectations as unreaſonable, and our prudential reſtrictions as miſtaken œconomy.

X. Whatever had been your ſentiments of the orders we had given, in conſequence of the apparent ſtate of your Preſidency, we are ſorry to find you ſhould ſo far have forgot the relative ſituation we ſtand in towards you, as to give ſuch public teſtimony of your diſreſpect; which could be your only motive, unleſs you were deſirous of ſhewing your impatience of reſtraint, and thereby exciting

exciting a ſimilar diſpoſition in others. But it is ſo irkſome to us to dwell on a ſubject of this nature, that we ſhall leave it to your own minds, to arraign the indecency of the reflexions contained in your letter to *Madraſs*.

XI. We have now to remark, on the plan which appears to be concerted between your Preſidency and that of *Fort St. George*, for eſtabliſhing a fund for military reſources, on a reduction of the inveſtments on which we had ſo much reaſon to depend.

XII. However ſalutary it may be to have a view to remote events, and to provide for future exigencies, after your inveſtments ſhall have been carried to the extent requiſite for the Company's immediate occaſions; yet in how unfavourable a light muſt appear the intention of our ſervants, to guard againſt remote and uncertain evils abroad, by leaving the Company to ſink under abſolute and preſent diſtreſſes at home.

XIII. As you are already fully apprized of the obligation we are under to pay 400,000 l. annually to government, excluſive of a ſum of about 200,000 l. for indemnity on tea; ſenſible as you muſt alſo be of the juſt expectations of the proprietors, to partake of the advantages of their late acquiſitions by increaſe of dividends; and as you cannot be unacquainted with the many other great and indiſpenſible occaſions of the Company, it is with the utmoſt aſtoniſhment we ſee you entertain an idea of reducing your inveſtments, without abſolute neceſſity, and thereby depriving us of the only means we can have to anſwer ſuch demands.

XIV. However, we hope, that upon more mature deliberation, you will have laid aſide ſo deſtructive a deſign. Yet the view of it is ſo alarming, that we muſt here declare our peremptory prohibition of ſuch a meaſure; and we expect, and enjoin you to ſend us, annually, inveſtments to the amount of not leſs than forty lacks of rupees; and your ability for this (ſhould no unforeſeen event happen) we cannot in the leaſt doubt.

XV. On the contrary, as peace is eſtabliſhed on the coaſt of *Coromandel*, and our preſident and council of *Fort St. George* will have no occaſion to drain your treaſury for their military charges, and as we muſt conſider *China* as ſupplied for the next year, by the permiſſion we have given to take in money for bills on us, together with the bullion and goods conſigned from hence, we truſt that your ſeveral revenues, even ſuppoſing them ſhort of your eſtimates, will not only defray your civil and military charges, ſupply us with very ample inveſtments, and aſſiſt our Preſidencies of *Madraſs* and *Bombay* with ſuch aids as they may ſtand in need of, but alſo leave a conſiderable ſurplus, which of courſe becomes a natural fund for any exigency, either of war or commerce: and of this we are the more aſſured from an eſtimate on your ſelect conſultations of the 21ſt *March* 1769, formed by yourſelves, for the better aſcertaining the remittances you might be enabled to ſend to *Madraſs* in the courſe of the year.

XVI. Having thus appriſed you that every other conſideration is to give place to the eſſential and primary object, your inveſtments, we ſhall readily admit that the next concern is to have a large balance remaining in your treaſury: to which end we do agree, that your preſent debt at intereſt may continue, until you ſhall have in *Calcutta* to the amount of upwards of thirty lacks

of rupees: and then the ſums only exceeding thirty lacks ſhall be applied to the reduction of debt. This once diſcharged, or reduced only to the amount of the military fund, we may reaſonably hope for ſuch an accumulation of your treaſury, as will, ere long, be ſufficient for any emergency.

XVII. Though we found it neceſſary to explain ourſelves thus fully on the alarming meaſure you ſeemed inclined to purſue, we muſt here add our poſitive injunctions, that you do not, at any time, engage in plans of ſo important a nature without our knowledge and concurrence, as it behoves you to concert with us only, ſuch ſyſtems as materially affect the very being of the Company.

XVIII. We alſo ſee with concern the frequency of viſits to and from the Princes and miniſters; in which, not only our governors and reſidents, but even our officers are concerned. As we do not diſcover any good purpoſe which can be anſwered by theſe viſits, but, on the contrary, as they entail a heavy expence on the Company and themſelves, we, therefore, in all caſes where the Company's affairs do not abſolutely require it, enjoin you to diſcourage this practice.

XIX. We find, in the *Murſhedabad* accounts, a great expence appearing annually for the catching and feeding of elephants, ſaid to be kept for the purpoſe of making occaſional preſents to the officers of the government. As the orders we have given for aboliſhing the pernicious cuſtom of making preſents, will render this charge altogether improper, we require and direct you, as ſoon as poſſible, to get rid of all the elephants you may be poſſeſſed of; and that, in future, you do not put the Company to any expence for the feeding of ſuch animals as may be kept ſolely for parade.

XX. We communicated the contents of your Preſident's letter, of the 17th *February* 1769, to his Majeſty, by Lord *Weymouth*, one of his principal ſecretaries of ſtate. And as the King has ſent a preſent to the Nabob of *Arcot*, to be delivered by his own officer, Sir *John Lindſay*, and his Lordſhip has given notice to us, that two picture frames will be ſent to *Bengal*, we apprehend they are intended as part of a preſent to the Mogul *Shah Allum*, to be delivered by the ſame gentleman; but his Majeſty has not yet acquainted us what his royal will and pleaſure is with reſpect to this matter.

We are your loving friends,

(Signed) G. COLEBROOKE,
P. CUST,
H. CRABB BOULTON,
J. PURLING,
FREDERICK PIGOU,
JOHN HARRISON,
RICHARD BOSANQUET,
DANIEL WIER,
WILLIAM SNELL,
PETER DU CANE, Jun.
BEN. BOOTH,
GEO. CUMING,
JOHN WOODHOUSE,
WILLIAM JAMES,
HENRY FLETCHER,
GEORGE DEMPSTER,
CHARLES BODDAM,
W. G. FREEMAN,
L. SULIVAN,
ROBERT GREGORY.

London, the 23d March 1770.

NUM. XLVI.

EXTRACT from a VIEW *of Proceedings relative to the inland Trade of* Bengal, *in the Articles of Salt, Beetle-nut, and Tobacco, from the 18th of* May 1764, *to the 1st of* September 1768: *as drawn up from the Company's Records, by Mr.* Samuel Wilks.

Minute of the General Court in *London*, *May* 18*th* 1764.

THE General Court recommend it to the Court of Directors to re-conſider the orders ſent to *Bengal*, relative to the trade of the Company's ſervants in ſalt, beetle-nut, and tobacco: and to give ſuch directions for regulating it, agreeable to the intereſts of the Company and the Subah, as might appear moſt prudent; either by ſettling proper regulations at home, or by referring it to the Governor and Council at *Bengal* to regulate this important buſineſs, ſo as to prevent all future diſputes betwixt the Subahdar and the Company. The Court of Directors had, by letter of the 8th of *February* preceding (which arrived in *Bengal* the 13th of *July* 1764) paragraphs 20 to 25, utterly precluded their ſervants and all *Europeans*, and forbid them trading in the above articles, on pain of diſmiſſion, and forfeiture of the Company's protection: and, by letter of the 22d of *February* (received in *Bengal* the 17th *September* 1764) the ſalt-farms were ordered to be kept ſeparate, that the Court might be informed of the amount.

Separate *Bengal* Conſultations, 17th *October* 1764.

IT was reſolved, that the inland trade, that is, the articles produced in one part of the country, to be carried for ſale and conſumption to another, ſhould in general be prohibited, with ſuch exceptions as it ſhould appear to the board might be admitted, without danger of creating diſputes with the government, or depriving the Nabob of his juſt rights.

By theſe regulations, Company's ſervants were allowed to ſend ſalt to *Murſhedabad*, *Patna*, and *Dacca*, becauſe it did not occur to the board, that diſputes about the inland trade had ever happened at thoſe places. All goods ſo ſent were to pay the duties ſtipulated in the laſt treaty, and two and a half *per cent.* alſo on beetle-nut.

The Company's ſervants were prohibited from making ſalt on any lands but thoſe within the Company's juriſdiction.

They were alſo to take care, that their gomaſtahs delivered up their duſtucks to the Company's Chief, and their perwânahs to the Nabob's Naib, ſo ſoon as the ſalt ſhould be landed at ſuch factory or city to which it might be conſigned.

A reaſonable time was to be allowed the Company's ſervants and others to diſpoſe of the ſtock on hand: an account whereof was to be aſcertained in ——— days, and all new purchaſes were ſtrictly prohibited.

Perſons guilty of *barja*, or *guchaout*, *viz.* compelling perſons to buy ſuch goods as they had not occaſion for, or to give more for goods than market-price, were to be ſeverely puniſhed.

The Nabob having granted general duſtucks to ſundry free-merchants, he was to be deſired to withdraw them, and to grant no more in future.

Signed by Meſſrs. VANSITTART,
SPENCER,
PLAYDELL,
HASTINGS,
MIDDLETON,
LEYCESTER, and
BURDETT.

General *Bengal* Conſultation, 3d *May* 1765.

Lord *Clive* arrived in *Bengal*.

THE paragraphs reſpecting the inland trade, in the general letter to *Bengal*, which accompanied his Lordſhip, dated the * 1ſt of *June* 1764, were conceived almoſt in the very words of the General Court's reſolution: and it was added, that the orders of the 8th *February* preceding ſhould remain in full force, until ſuch equitable plan could be formed by Lord *Clive* and the Select Committee, as might not afford reaſon of complaint to the Nabob or natives. The Court by this letter repoſed full confidence in his Lordſhip to get this work accompliſhed, a plan whereof was to be ſent home for the Court's approbation: and thoſe orders were, as already obſerved, received in *Bengal* 24th *January* 1765.

In this letter his Lordſhip's allowances were ſettled. The Court granted a ſalary of ſix thouſand pounds *per annum*, with other emoluments; but declared theſe to be in full for *all ſervices*, both civil and military; and that his Lordſhip was not to have any allowance whatever, by way of commiſſion, or otherwiſe, out of the revenues, from any of our territorial acquiſitions whatever. *Vide* † Par. 20, 21, 64, and 65.

The 10th *Auguſt* following the Select Committee, having taken into conſideration the Company's orders on the above ſubject, reſolve, amongſt other things, that they eſteem it moſt correſpondent to the ſaid orders, *that the whole trade ſhall be carried on by an excluſive ſociety*; who ſhould buy or ſell the whole produce of the country, and all it's imports of ſalt, beetle-nut, and tobacco.

That all perſons under the Company's protection ſhould be prohibited dealing in the above-mentioned articles, excepting this ſociety; and that application ſhould be made to the Nabob to iſſue the ſame prohibition to all his officers and ſubjects.

* The *Lapwing* carried the originals, and arrived in *Bengal* the 24th *January* 1765: but all proceedings relative to the inland trade, as well as the foregoing reſolutions of the Council, were deferred and ſuſpended, until the arrival of Lord *Clive*, and the Gentlemen who accompanied his Lordſhip.

† *Vide* Reports, Vol. IV. Page 147.

That

That upon their agents having tranſported the above articles to certain places, the country-merchants might then purchaſe the ſociety's ſalt, and reſell it in the country.

That the Company and Nabob ſhall be conſidered, either by duties, *nuzzeranah*, or as proprietors.

That a Committee of Trade ſhall be appointed, conſiſting of two members of the Select Committee and two of the Council.

Mr. *Sykes* having obtained from the Nabob one hundred and ſix perwânahs, authorizing the Society of Trade to proceed in this buſineſs, the ſaid perwânahs were preſented to the Select Committee by Mr. *Sumner*, and ordered to be delivered to the Committee of Trade, for their guidance.

General *Bengal* Conſultations, 12th *Auguſt* 1765.

THE Select Committee's proceedings being laid before the Council, Meſſ. *Leyceſter* and *Gray* enter diſſents againſt the power aſſumed by the Select Committee, but nevertheleſs agree to concur heartily in their meaſures: whereupon the Council proceed to conſtitute Meſſ. *Sumner*, *Verelſt*, *Leyceſter*, and *Gray*, a Committee of Trade, authorizing them to correſpond with the ſubordinate factories, who are commanded to yield them all due obedience. The above four perſons thus conſtituted a Committee of Trade, were a majority of the Council at this Conſultation.

General *Bengal* Conſultations, 15th *Auguſt* 1765.

THE Committee of Trade requeſt, that Mr. *Graham* may be appointed their Secretary and Accountant, and the Council agree to recal him from the *Banaras* factory for that purpoſe.

General *Bengal* Conſultations, 16th *September* 1765.

BY letter, dated 11th *September* 1765, the Committee of Trade ſolicit the board to grant them a deed, to ſecure to the Society the free and ſole purchaſe of all ſalt, beetle-nut, and tobacco, produced in the provinces of *Bengal*, *Bahar*, and *Oriſſa*, from the 1ſt of *September* 1765, to 31ſt *Auguſt* 1766; with ſufficient time alſo to diſpoſe thereof, and to be renewed every ſeaſon, ſo long as the Company ſhould think it proper for the plan to ſubſiſt.

The petitioners formed a majority at this Conſultation; and their requeſt was unanimouſly granted.

Select *Bengal* Conſultations, 18th *September* 1765.

THE Select Committee proceed to finiſh their plan, and agree, that the Company may better employ their own money in providing for their *China* trade, than as joint proprietors in the ſalt-trade. But

That as the Company ſtood then *in the place of the country-government*, by the royal grant of the Dewannee, and were alſo the Maſters of their ſervice, it was agreed,

That

That the above articles ſhould be ſubject to a certain duty, namely, of 35 *per cent.* on ſalt, valuing 100 maunds at 90 *Arcot* rupees; 10 *per cent.* on the prime coſt of beetle-nut, and 25 *per cent.* on tobacco: which duties, it was eſtimated, would produce to the Company a clear annual revenue of 100,000*l.* And if, upon farther experience, it ſhould appear that the profits would admit of the duties being increaſed, they reſolve,

That an impartial repreſentation ſhould be made to the Court of Directors, in order to obtain their inſtructions on this point. They then reſolve,

That the proprietors be arranged under three claſſes, and the trade divided into

35 ſhares for the 1ſt claſs;
12 ſhares for the 2d claſs; and
8 ſhares for the 3d claſs.

Total, 55 ſhares.

That, in order to prevent interruptions to the trade, the Committee of Trade ſhould have power to form bye-laws; which, having been approved by the Proprietors, the ſaid Committee of Trade ſhall be empowered to enforce and carry into execution.

General *Bengal* Conſultations, 25th *September* 1765.

THE Council confirm the Select Committee's regulations, tranſmit them to the Committee of trade, and direct them to proceed agreeably thereto.

30th *September* 1765.

LORD CLIVE, the Select Committee, and the Council at large, ſeparately addreſſed the Court of Directors; adviſe of their having eſtabliſhed the trade in an excluſive ſociety, and explain the particulars and conditions thereof. Theſe letters were received *per* the *Admiral Stevens*, the 19th *April* 1766.

General *Bengal* Conſultations, 15th *October* 1765.

THE Court's letter *per Grenville*, dated 15th *February* 1765, was received in *Bengal*; which letter inforced, in the ſtrongeſt manner, the orders of the 8th *February* and 1ſt *June* preceding; and poſitively forbade any ſteps being taken towards renewing the ſaid trade. The utmoſt confidence is alſo repoſed in Lord *Clive*, to carry theſe orders into execution.

General Conſultations, the 24th *October* 1765.

THE Court's letter (dated *London* the 15th *February* 1765) was taken into conſideration; but it does not appear that any attention was paid to the above ſubject, nor any mention whatever made of the paragraphs relative to the inland trade in the ſalt, beetle-nut, and tobacco.

Letter

Letter from Lord *Clive* to the Court, 1ſt *February* 1766.

LORD CLIVE, in a letter to the Court of Directors, complains of the rapacity of almoſt all the Company's ſervants; returns thanks to the Court of Directors for the confidence repoſed in him to ſettle the inland trade, in ſalt, *&c.* by their letter of the 15th *February* 1765, Paragraph XL. His lordſhip *claims the honour of having firſt propoſed the plan for carrying on the ſalt trade, whilſt he was at ſea; and tranſmits an eſtimate of the advantages of ſuch trade to ſundry individuals.*

General Conſultations, 19th *May* 1766.

DUPLICATE of the Court's letter *per Talbot*, dated the 26th *April* 1765, was received in *Bengal*. Lord *Clive* was on a viſit to the army at the time, and a copy was tranſmitted to his Lordſhip and General *Carnac*. This letter totally condemns the conduct of thoſe ſervants who could ſuppoſe they were intitled to reſtitution for loſſes ſuſtained in an illicit trade in ſalt, beetle-nut, and tobacco, and expreſſeth great concern and anxiety for the arrival of Lord *Clive* and the Select Committee in *Bengal*.

General Conſultations, 20th *June* 1766.

THE Court's ſeparate letter *per Hampſhire*, dated 24th *December* 1765, was received in *Bengal*.

This letter expreſsly declares every perſon concerned in the inland-trade, guilty of a breach of covenants; but it does not appear that the Council took any other notice of the ſubject of the inland-trade, in conſequence of this letter, than by ordering a copy of the material parts to be ſent to Lord *Clive*.

General Conſultations, 2d *Auguſt* 1766.

THE Court's letter, dated 19th *February* 1766, *per Lord Camden*, was received in *Bengal*, and very fully explains their former letters of the 8th *February* and 1ſt *June* 1764; totally condemns the 5th article of the treaty with *Najim al Dowlah*, reſpecting the inland-trade in ſalt, beetle-nut, and tobacco: commands a formal renunciation thereof, and repeats, that every one concerned in ſuch trade, ſtands guilty of a breach of covenants; and alſo further declares, *that whatever government may be eſtabliſhed, or whatever unforeſeen circumſtances may have happened*, it is the Court's reſolution to prohibit, and they do abſolutely forbid this trade of ſalt, beetle-nut, and tobacco, and all articles which are not for export and import.

Select Conſultations, 3d *September* 1766.

LORD CLIVE delivers in a minute, ſignifying, that all the Court's letters of laſt year indicate A DESIGN TO WAIT for the Committee's repreſentations;

but that their letter of the 19th *February* 1766, positively forbids any traffic in salt, beetle-nut, and tobacco. His lordship however observes, that the Company could not then have been apprized of the favourable turn of their affairs, but that a few weeks more must bring their final resolution; and that if they should repeat their orders of the 19th *February* 1766, it would be the duty of the Committee to obey them; but that AS THEY MIGHT CHANGE THEIR SENTIMENTS his lordship thought no time should be lost in establishing the mode of conducting the said trade in future; and therefore he proposeth sundry regulations, which amount to almost a new plan for the second year, *viz.* from *September* 1766, to *September* 1767.

These regulations being approved by the Committee, were laid before the Board; and,

General Consultations, 8th *September* 1766.

THE Council constitute the following gentlemen a Committee of Trade, and direct them to carry the same into execution as soon as possible, *viz.*

W. B. Sumner,
Harry Verelst,
Randolph Marriott,
Hugh Watts,
Claud Russell, and
Charles Stevens, Esquires.

The above Gentlemen composed a majority of the Council at this Consultation.

By Lord *Clive*'s second plan, which was thus approved in Council, the 8th of *September* 1766, it was agreed, that a duty should be paid to the Company of 50 *per cent.* on all salt produced in their own lands, and 50 *per cent.* to the Government, upon all the salt made in the lands of the Government: and the duty upon beetle-nut was increased from 10 to 15 *per cent.* on the prime cost, which revenue was all finally to be brought into the Company's treasury.

That all the society's salt should be sold at *Calcutta*, or such other places where it is made, and no where else; the natives were then to be the only re-purchasers: and to them salt was not to exceed two rupees *per* maund.

No *European* was permitted to have any farther dealings in salt.

In the instrument of agreement for the next year, it was to be provided, that the society of trade was to be answerable to the Board for their conduct; and both to be controlled by the Select Committee. The trade was divided into sixty shares; thirty-two of which were to be enjoyed by the members of Council, but none by the Governor: and after a distribution of the shares, there remained 4$\frac{1}{3}$d. shares unappropriated, one of which was afterwards given to * Mr. *Verelst*, and the remainder divided amongst some of the military.

* Vide Select Committee of the 21st of *December* following.

Select

Select Conſultations, 19th *September* 1766.

LORD CLIVE propoſeth to relinquiſh * trade, excepting in diamonds, and ſale of ſtock on hand; in conſideration of receiving $1\frac{1}{8}$th *per cent.* upon the revenues of *Bengal*, *Bahar*, and *Oriſſa*, excepting on the Company's lands at *Calcutta*, *Burdwan*, *Midnapore*, and *Chittagong*; but ſtipulates alſo for his ſalary, ſtated allowances, and commiſſion upon the mint, coral, and freight-goods beſides.

General Conſultations, 22d *September* 1766.

THE Council fully approve of his lordſhip's propoſal, and covenant with him in the name of the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies*, to grant his lordſhip a commiſſion of $1\frac{1}{8}$th *per cent.* upon the aforeſaid revenues, and his other allowances, as before ſpecified.

Mayor's Court Proceedings, 1ſt of *October* 1766.

AN indenture, binding the contracting parties, was executed by Lord *Clive* and the Council, and recorded in the Mayor's Court. His lordſhip alſo took an oath at the ſame time to abide by the ſtipulation contained in the ſaid bond.

General Conſultations, 3d *November* 1766.

THE Council agree, that Lord *Clive*'s commiſſion of $1\frac{1}{8}$th *per cent.* upon the revenues ſhall take place from the 1ſt of *September* preceding.

General Conſultations, 8th *December* 1766.

THE Court's letter to Lord *Clive*, dated the 2d of *May*, and to his lordſhip and Committee and Council *per Mercury*, dated the 17th *May* 1766, being arrived, recapitulate the Company's former orders, who ſtill declare that they cannot admit of carrying on of the ſaid trade † *in any ſhape whatever*.

The Court again pronounce all concerned therein guilty of a breach of covenants; and ſignify, that the firſt lawyers in the kingdom confirm their ſentiments, *that no regulations whatever can be formed*, that can prevent conſequences, ſimilar to thoſe which have already happened. That were they to allow of ſuch trade, *under any reſtrictions, it would be ſubſcribing to all the miſchiefs which have befallen* Bengal *for four years paſt*.

* His lordſhip obſerves on this occaſion, that the unhappy diſſentions which had frequently brought the Company's poſſeſſions in *Bengal* to the point of deſtruction, had generally proceeded from the conduct of Governors, and their eager purſuit of private intereſt; which had reduced them to the neceſſity of conniving at abuſes that otherwiſe would have been remedied.

† In the pretended copy of the Select Committee's letter of the 9th *December* 1766, which Mr. *Vereſt* has given the public in his Appendix, pages 33 to 40, he has ſuppreſſed the 27, 28, and 29th Paragraphs of the letter, becauſe they proved that theſe orders *per Mercury* had been then received, over land, from *Vizagapatam*.

The Court's letter to Lord *Clive* of the ſame date obſerves, Paragraph II. that his lordſhip has at once diſcerned the Company's true intereſt in every branch; that unbiaſſed integrity has guided all his actions: for which, and the advantages thereby obtained, he has their ſincereſt thanks.

Paragraph VI. The inland-trade is however totally condemned; and his lordſhip is informed, that the Court could not be brought to approve it, *even under the limitations and regulations ſettled by the Select Committee.*

Paragraph VIII. That as the ſaid trade had been aboliſhed, the Court hopes his lordſhip will find means to prevent it's being monopolized in any hands whatever, leſt the poor might ſtill ſuffer thoſe very inconveniencies, for the prevention of which, the Court had not only forbid their ſervants to trade therein, but relinquiſhed thoſe advantages that the Company themſelves might make by ſuch monopoly. At the ſame time, the Court obſerve to the Select Committee, that they do not mean to aboliſh the ancient duties on the above articles, which conſtitute part of the revenues of *Bengal*. But the adjuſtment of thoſe duties is left to the judgment and conſideration of the Select Committee.

General Conſultations, 18th *December* 1766.

THE Board having poſtponed the conſideration of the above letter, and appointed the 18th of *December* for that purpoſe, they met; but never once mentioned the articles of inland-trade.

Select Conſultations, 21ſt *December* 1766.

Reſolved by the Select Committee, "That the unappropriated whole "ſhare in the capital ſtock of the ſociety of trade, be annexed to the two "ſhares already aſſigned to Mr. *Verelſt*, in *conſideration of the reſtrictive oath "to be taken when he enters upon the government; and that the commiſſion of "1$\frac{1}{8}$th* per cent. *upon the* Dewannee-*revenues be aſſigned to Lord* Clive *till "the firſt day of* September *next, in lieu of the five ſhares which his lord-"ſhip has relinquiſhed in the capital ſtock of the ſociety of trade.*"

(Signed) CLIVE,
JOHN CARNAC,
H. VERELST.

Select Conſultations, 16th *January* 1767.

LORD CLIVE takes leave of the Select Committee. In his lordſhip's minute on that occaſion, he obſerves, amongſt other things, that as orders were received to aboliſh the ſalt-trade, they muſt be punctually obeyed. Nevertheleſs, he is of opinion, that on its then preſent footing it was RATHER BENEFICIAL, THAN INJURIOUS, TO THE INHABITANTS of the country; that a continuation of this indulgence, or an equivalent thereto, was become NECESSARY; and that he flattered himſelf the Court of Directors would ſettle ſome plan, that would be agreeable to the wiſhes of their ſervants.

Whereupon

Whereupon it was reſolved, that the ſociety ſhould be aboliſhed on the 1ſt day of *September* 1767; but that the advantages which the country would have received by its continuance, ſhould be fully repreſented to the Court of Directors. It was alſo reſolved, that as Lord *Clive* had relinquiſhed the five ſhares to which he was intitled in the ſalt-trade, and all other commercial advantages, that an equivalent be aſſigned to his lordſhip of $1\frac{1}{8}$th *per cent.* upon the revenues of *Bengal* and *Bahar*, to commence the 1ſt of *September* laſt, and continue the 1ſt of *September* enſuing; and that, as Mr. *Verelſt* will have charge of the government ſeveral months after Lord *Clive*'s departure (*viz.* from *January* to *September*) he ſhould draw for $1\frac{1}{8}$th *per cent.* of the revenues, until the month of *September*, after he * himſelf ſhould have reſigned the government.

Select Committee's Letter from *Bengal*, 24th *January* 1767.

THE Select Committee ſay, in their letter to the Court, Paragraph XX. "*You very juſtly conſider the inland-trade as the foundation of all the bloodſhed, maſſacres, and confuſion which have happened in* Bengal *of late years.* Yet, in Paragraph XXII. they call this trade *the beſt method of rewarding faithful ſervices*, and the ſureſt means to excite zeal, &c. They warmly expoſtulate with the Court of Directors, on the propriety of thus ſtripping their ſervants of all their advantages, and farther inſinuate, that gratitude for affluence *in* ſervice, and for an independency at the *cloſe* thereof, will be found the ſtrongeſt ties, or motives to the faithful diſcharge of their duty. They further obſerve,

* In this place, the following facts are deſerving of the reader's animadverſion. Lord *Clive*, in his letter to the Directors of the 27th *April* 1764, (ſee Appendix to Conſiderations, page 146) gave it as his opinion, that the whole of Mr. *Vanſittart*'s appointments, amounting to 20,000 l. a year, "*was too great a burthen on the Company's eſtate*;" and aſſured them it was "*his full intention not to engage in any kind of trade himſelf.*"——Having diſpoſed of the commercial concerns which he held in partnerſhip with Meſs. *Sumner*, *Carnac*, *Verelſt*, and *Sykes*, (ſee the deed in Appendix to Conſiderations, page 159, which Lord *Clive* has acknowledged in the 36th page of his ſpeech before the Houſe of Commons of the 30th *March* 1772, as printed by *J. Walter*) unto the new partnerſhip of *Harry Verelſt*, *Francis Sykes*, *Alexander Campbell*, *Claud Ruſſell*, and *Thomas Kelſall*, Eſquires, and being determined to leave *Bengal* in *January* 1767, his Lordſhip agrees on the 19th *September* 1766 to relinquiſh trade; for which purpoſe, on the 1ſt *October* 1767 (ſee Reports, vol. IV. page 150) he *ſolemnly* enters into an oſtentatious engagement with the tools of his own power.———In conſideration of this great SACRIFICE, but in defiance of the moſt poſitive orders of the Directors to the contrary, (ſee the Reports, vol. IV. page 147) at a Select Committee held the ſaid 19th *September* 1766, (ſee Reports, vol. IV. page 149) Lord *Clive*, General *Carnac*, and Mr. *Verelſt* reſolve to give Lord *Clive* $1\frac{1}{8}$ *per cent.* on the revenues, amounting to near 30,000 l. *per Annum.*——In reward for ſervices, paſt and to come, this Select Committee, alſo on the 16th *January* 1767, (ſee Reports, vol. IV. page 154) reſolve that the ſame commiſſion ſhall be continued to Mr. *Verelſt*, who had already been rewarded by the Committee of the 21ſt *December* 1766, (conſiſting of Lord *Clive* and himſelf, ſee Reports, vol. III. page 318) with an additional ſhare of the ſalt-trade.——But as they had agreed, for weighty reaſons among themſelves, that his Lordſhip ſhould receive this commiſſion for nine months of Mr. *Verelſt*'s adminiſtration, they here entailed this anticipation of their mutual generoſity, upon his ſucceſſor Mr. *Cartier*, who was then abſent at *Ducca*.

Paragraph

Paragraph XXV. that if they deviate from Lord *Clive*'s plan, delivered in a minute of the 16th, it muſt proceed, not from ignorance, but from inclination, and that they ſhall become in all reſpects accountable for the conſequence. This is the laſt public letter which Lord *Clive* ſigns. His lordſhip came home in the *Britannia*, which was diſpatched from *Bengal* on the 29th of *January* 1767.

General Conſultations, 29th *January* 1767.

THE honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; takes his ſeat in Council as Governor.

General Conſultations, 9th *February* 1767.

IN conſequence of the Preſident propoſing to the board to fix a day for his entering into the oath and penalty-bond, which it was agreed on in conſultation the 22d *September*, ſhould be executed by all Governors of *Fort William*: *Reſolved*, That *Tueſday* the 17th inſtant be appointed for the performance of that ceremony.

Select Conſultations, 11th *February* 1767.

IT was agreed, That publication be made by the Secretary, of the reſolution of the 16th *ultimo*, to aboliſh the ſociety of inland-trade, in the articles of ſalt, beetle-nut, and tobacco, on the 1ſt day of *September* next; after which day, no *European* whatever, living under the Company's protection, ſhall be permitted to trade, directly, or indirectly, in the above articles, on pain of forfeiting the Company's ſervice and protection.

General Conſultations, 16th *February* 1767.

THE Council order, that publication be made for aboliſhing the ſociety of inland-trade; and order the Select Committee's proceedings to be entered on their conſultation.

General Conſultations, 17th *February* 1767.

PURSUANT to a reſolution of the 9th inſtant, the honourable the Preſident and Council aſſembled this morning at the town-hall, where the honourable the Preſident did, in the moſt ſolemn manner, before the Mayor and Aldermen, and in the preſence of a great number of the inhabitants, take the oath, and enter into the penalty-bond, propoſed to be executed by all future Governors of *Fort William*, reſtricting them in points of trade and private intereſt: and they then withdrew.

General Conſultations, 27th *July* 1767.

THE Committee of Trade petition the board for ſufficient time to diſpoſe of ſuch ſalt, beetle-nut, and tobacco, as might remain unſold when their *excluſive privilege ſhould expire*.

It appears, that the time deemed ſufficient by the board for ſuch purpoſe, was one year, becauſe it was agreed, that in conſequence of their repreſentation, and the proviſion made in the deed, they ſhould be allowed one year to diſpoſe of the remainder of the ſtock in hand. N. B. Their excluſive privilege above-mentioned was from 1ſt *September* 1766, to *September* 1767.

Select Conſultations, 4th *Auguſt* 1767.

THE abolition of trade in ſalt, beetle-nut, and tobacco, was confirmed by the Select Committee; and Mr. *Sykes* directed to explain to the miniſters, that, as Dewan, *the Company do not wiſh to reap any advantage from the inland-trade, excepting by means of the eſtabliſhed ground-rents and duties.*

General Conſultations, 10th *Auguſt* 1767.

THE Governor and Council of *Fort St. George* adviſe, that the Company have ſalt on hand, 600,000 maunds, which will not ſell at that Preſidency; they therefore requeſt the Governor and Council at *Bengal* to diſpoſe thereof by contract, or otherwiſe, for the Company; which is not complied with, becauſe they ſay it would affect the ſales and ſtock of the ſociety of trade, and be an injury to thoſe perſons who had made purchaſes of the ſociety's ſalt, on the faith of the *board*. But they repreſent, that an importation of a lack and half of maunds might be made without any inconvenience, public or private, ariſing from that quantity being brought to the *Bengal* market.

Select Conſultations, * 2d *September* 1767.

MR. *Sykes* having conferred with the miniſters on the ſubject of inland-trade, recommends, that all ſalt-lands ſhould be worked on the government's account; that the ſalt being brought to ſundry fixed markets, might, after paying the duties, be diſpoſed of at prime coſt to the people, and afterwards be reſold at pleaſure, without any other impediments or obſtruction whatever.

Mr. *Sykes* adds, that when the ſociety was eſtabliſhed, perwânahs were circulated through the country, forbidding the inhabitants to deal in that article. He therefore requeſts orders, reſpecting the calling in of ſuch perwânahs.

The Committee anſwer, That juſtice requires, that the privilege of making ſalt ſhould be reſtored *to thoſe perſons who formerly derived their ſubſiſtance from it, and who have no other means of providing for their families.*

That the duties ſhould be collected only at one *Chokey*, "*in every rout of trade,*" and rated in the moſt equitable and moderate manner.

Select Conſultations, 13th *October* 1767.

MR. *Sykes* tranſmits copies of perwânahs iſſued by the Nabob *Mahommed Reza Khawn*, prohibiting all *Europeans* from trafficking in ſalt, beetle-nut,

* See Number XXVIII. page 160.

and tobacco; and ſignifying, that the term fixed for the continuance of the ſociety of inland-trade is expired, which perwânahs are approved of by the Select Committee, notwithſtanding they had given one year on the 27th *July* 1767.

Select Conſultations, 29th *November* 1767.

Mr. *Sykes* tranſmits ſundry regulations to the Committee, which he had propoſed ſhould be circulated by the miniſters, reſpecting the inland-trade.

Select Conſultations, 29th *December* 1767.

The Committee take the ſaid regulations into conſideration, and having amended the ſame, tranſmit them to Mr. *Sykes*, to be circulated in the provinces.

By theſe regulations no gomaſtahs were permitted to reſide in the country, but by perwânah from the Governor; nor to buy or ſell any other articles, than ſuch as were ſpecified in their perwânahs.

The trade of ſalt, beetle-nut, and tobacco, was to be carried on by native-merchants only.

A ſtated duty was to be collected before perwânahs were granted for removing the ſalt, and no other duties whatever were to be demanded.

And as the merchants had bought large quantities of the ſociety's ſalt, no perſon ſhould impede them in the diſpoſal thereof, *nor demand any duties from buyer or ſeller*.

The *French*, *Dutch*, and other foreigners were, by the *Nazim*, forbidden to trade in ſalt, beetle-nut, and tobacco, and alſo in grain, and all other neceſſaries of life.

The privileges of the *Engliſh*, *French*, and *Dutch* Companies were defined, and declared to extend to ſuch trade only in cotton, ſilk, and ſuch other goods as are exported to foreign ports; and to the above orders ſtrict obedience was commanded.

Select Conſultations, 12th *January* 1768.

Mr. *Sykes* promiſeth to ſubſtitute the Committee's regulations, inſtead of thoſe already circulated.

Select Conſultations, 27th *April* 1768.

The Preſident informs the Committee, that orders have been iſſued to the officers of all the *Chokeys*, to ſuffer all merchandize of natives to paſs, on paying the cuſtomary duties.

General Conſultations, 4th *May* 1768.

The Committee of Trade, *viz.* Meſſrs. *Cartier*, *Ruſſell*, and *Ffloyer*, complain to the board, that the ſales of their ſalt in the *Patna* diſtricts were almoſt

almoſt at a ſtand, owing to ſalt being made in the ſaltpetre pans; and pray that the ſaid ſalt may be confiſcated and the gomaſtahs puniſhed.

Their agent's letter ſets forth, that the ſaid gomaſtahs ſell ſalt for two, and two and a-half rupees *per* maund. He likewiſe recommends, that by beat of *tomtom* they ſhould be forbid to make ſalt; and that in the *Bazar*, the people ſhould, by the ſame mode, be forbid to purchaſe ſuch ſalt: he further obſerves, that they combine to make ſalt inſtead of ſaltpetre, to the great detriment of the Company's inveſtment. That there has been *run* in upon him, in this diſtrict only, 20,000 maunds; and that, in ſuch a ſituation, he cannot expect to ſell the ſociety's ſalt.

The Council thereupon direct Mr. *Rumbold* to puniſh the gomaſtahs, confiſcate their ſalt, and deliver it to Mr. *Lethieulier*, the ſociety's agent, and to cauſe publication to be made, prohibiting all perſons whatever from making ſalt in thoſe diſtricts.

Select Conſultations, 1ſt *June* 1768.

The Court's letter *per Admiral Watſon*, dated 20th *November* 1767, was read, and ordered to lay bye till next meeting; but the Committee meet no more till the 19th of *July* 1768. This letter utterly aboliſhed all trade in ſalt by *Europeans*, and approved the deed of renunciation entered into by Lord *Clive*.

General Conſultations, 7th *June* 1768.

Mr. *Rumbold* replies, that the Company's inveſtment of ſaltpetre was ſo far from ſuffering by the ſalt made there, that it had been increaſed. That from the refuſe-petre ſalt had always been made; and that if it be totally prohibited, the Fowzdar will expect an abatement of his rents. However, he promiſeth to make inquiry, and puniſh the gomaſtahs if they be found to deſerve it.

The Council minute the receipt of this letter on conſultations, but make no obſervation whatever thereupon.

General Conſultations, 11th *Auguſt* 1768.

The regulations laid down in the Court's letter, dated the 20th *November* 1767, *per Admiral Watſon*, were taken into conſideration. The Collector-general was deſired to aſcertain the number of callaries for making ſalt, and Meſſrs. *Cartier*, *Becher* and *Ruſſell*, appointed a Committee to report the beſt methods for carrying into execution the order contained in ſaid letter, ſo far as it refers to the trade in ſalt, *&c.*

The Court declare in this letter, that having reviſed all that has been ſaid on the ſubject of inland-trade in general, and of ſalt in particular, they are more than ever convinced of the neceſſity of excluding all *Europeans* whatever from being concerned therein. They ratify and confirm their former orders, and direct, in the 89th paragraph, That the one and one-eighth *per cent.* commiſſion on

he revenues do ceaſe from 1ſt *September* 1767; but nevertheleſs, in Paragraph CXVIII. a ſpecific ſum of one and one-eighth *per cent.* commiſſion on the revenues is ordered to be paid to the Governor from the ſaid 1ſt day of *September* 1767, to the arrival of theſe orders, which happened the 1ſt *June* 1768; ſo that Lord *Clive*'s ſucceſſor muſt have received the ſaid commiſſion of one and one-eighth *per cent.* preciſely nine months. The thirty-one ſhares of commiſſion afterwards given by the Court to the Governor, was in conſideration of his relinquiſhing, and not being concerned in any trade whatever, even of export or import; and of not receiving any preſents or gratifications whatever. And in Paragraph CXII. the deed of renunciation executed by Lord *Clive* was approved and confirmed, and all Governors were directed to execute the like inſtrument, on entering upon the office of Governor.

They alſo add ſundry regulations for conducting the ſaid trade, abſtracts of which are as follow:

Callaries in the Company's juriſdiction to be put up to ſale, five in a lot. No one allowed to purchaſe more than thirty lots.

Europeans prohibited from bidding directly or indirectly. In the Nabob's government the ſame mode to be recommended.

Salt to be carried to *Rajabarry*, and a creek oppoſite to *Barnagore*, or other places, if found proper; where the people of the country may make their purchaſes and pay the duties.

One hundred thouſand pounds to be the revenue; but not to exceed one hundred and twenty thouſand pounds.

Salt-makers to deliver annual accounts of the quantities made, and where landed; which muſt be entered on conſultations.

Boats ſmuggling ſalt confiſcate both veſſel and cargo.

Foreign ſalt to pay the ſame duty as *Bengal* ſalt; or more, if found neceſſary for the encouragement of *Bengal* manufacturers.

Any boat carrying *Engliſh* colours, or pretending to any *Engliſh* duſtuck, with ſalt on board, to be confiſcated.

General Conſultations, 1ſt of *September* 1768.

The board reſolve and order, "*That from this day the excluſive privilege of the ſociety of ſalt ſhall be at an end*;" and that whoever ſhall act, directly, or indirectly, contrary to the ſpirit of the Company's order, their goods ſhall be confiſcated, and they ſhall alſo be diſmiſſed the Company's ſervice.

Num. XLVII.

DATES of the various Orders of the Courts of Eaſt India *Directors, relative to the Trade in Salt, &c. with the Periods of their Receipt in* Bengal, *and their reſpective Anſwers; from* February 1764, *to* Auguſt 1771.

Orders

Orders dated at *London.*	Received at *Bengal.*	Anſwers to Court's Letters and other Advices, dated at *Bengal.*	Received at *London.*	By what Ships.	Paragraphs of Letters.
8th *Feb.* 1764	13 *July* 1764	. . . . .	. . . . .	*Duke of Glouceſter*, and *Worceſter*	20th to 25th.
22 *Feb.* 1764	17 *Sept.* 1764	. . . . .	. . . . .	*Vanſittart* . . .	55, 56.
		26 *Nov.* 1764	15 *June* 1765	*Devonſhire* . . .	11, 12. Select.
		6 *Feb.* 1765	9 *Sept.* 1765	*Vanſittart* . . .	10. Select.
1ſt *June* 1764	3 *May* 1765	. . . . .	. . . . .	*Kent* and *Lapwing*	20, 21, 54 to 63 to 69.
		30 *Sept.* 1765	19 *April* 1766	*Admiral Stevens* .	40, 41, 60. General.
					32, 33. Select.
					2, 3, 16 to 18, 26, 27. Lord *Clive.*
15 *Feb.* 1765	15 *Oct.* 1765	. . . . .	. . . . .	*Grenville*, &c. . .	39, 40, 58. General.
		31 *Jan.* 1766	20 *Aug.* 1766	*Grenville* . . .	8 to 11. Select.
		1 *Feb.* 1766 .	Ditto . . .	Ditto	10 to 17. Lord *Clive.*
		20 *March* 1766	23 *Nov.* 1766	*Admiral Watſon* .	2 to the end. Lord *Clive.*
		24 *March* 1766	Ditto . . .	Ditto	49.
26 *April* 1765	19 *May* 1766	. . . . .	. . . . .	*Falmouth* . . .	20 to 29.
					2. Lord *Clive.*
24 *Dec.* 1765	20 *June* 1766	. . . . .	. . . . .	*Lioneſs*, &c. . . .	10 to 16.
19 *Feb.* 1766	2 *Aug.* 1766	. . . . .	. . . . .	*Lord Cambden* . .	27 to 30.
		6 *Sept.* 1766	19 *June* 1767	*Cruttenden* . . .	1, 2, 9, from Lord *Clive.*
		8 *Sept.* . .	Ditto . . .	Ditto	25. Select.
		28 *Nov.* 1766	Ditto . . .	Ditto	42. General.
		5 & 9 *Dec.* 1766	Ditto . . .	Ditto	4 to 8. Select.
17 *May* 1766	8 *Dec.* 1766 .	. . . . .	. . . . .	*Mercury* . . .	3, 7, 42. General.
					3 to 5, 9 to 12, 31 to 37, and 48. Select.
					1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 11. Lord *Clive.*

Orders dated at *London.*	Received at *Bengal.*	Anſwers dated at *Bengal.*	Received at *London.*	By what Ships.	Paragraphs of Letters.
2 *May* 1766 .	8 *Dec.* 1766 .	. . . . .	. . . . .	*Mercury, &c.* . .	1 to the end. Lord *Clive.*
		12 *Dec.* 1766	19 *June* 1767 .	*Cruttenden* . . .	1, from Lord *Clive.*
		20 *Jan.* 1767	13 *July* 1767	*Britannia* . . .	34. General.
		24 *Jan.* 1767	Ditto . . .	Ditto	1 to 3, 20 to 24. Select.
21 *Nov.* 1766	11 *June* 1767	. . . . .	. . . . .	*Hector, Lord Holland, &c.* . .	2. Select.
					1, 2, 3, 7, 8. Lord *Clive.*
					3, 74. General.
4 *March* 1767	6 *Aug.* 1767	. . . . .	. . . . .	*Earl of Elgin, &c.*	14, 15. Select.
					5. Lord *Clive.*
20 *Nov.* 1767	29 *May* 1768	. . . . .	. . . . .	*Admiral Watſon* .	53, 54, 88 to 119. General.
					2. Select.
12 *Jan.* 1768	9 *Aug.* 1768	. . . . .	. . . . .	*Dutton*	9. General.
16 *March* 1768	31 *Aug.* 1768	. . . . .	. . . . .	*Ankerwyke, &c.* .	183, 184.
		13 *Sept.* 1768	2 *May* 1769 .	*Valentine* . . .	62, 63, 64. General.
		18 *Nov.* 1768	29 *May* 1769	*Verelſt*	7 to 12.
		2 *Feb.* 1769 .	7 *Aug.* 1769	*Saliſbury* . . .	51, 52.
11 *Nov.* 1768	31 *May* 1769	. . . . .	. . . . .	*Lioneſs*	90, 120. General.
					2, 4, 6. Select.
		25 *Sept.* 1769	26 *April* 1770	*Ankerwyke* . . .	62, 98, 107.
		30 *Sept.* 1769	Ditto . . .	Ditto	39, 40. Select.
17 *March* 1769	9 *Oct.* 1769 .	. . . . .	. . . . .	*Duke of Grafton* .	118. General.
		23 *Nov.* 1769	17 *April* 1770	*Hampſhire* . . .	18. General.
30 *June* 1769	3 *Jan.* 1770 .	. . . . .	. . . . .	*Lapwing*	41.
23 *March* 1770	31 *Oct.* 1770	. . . . .	. . . . .	*Lord Mansfield* . .	51.
		31 *Oct.* 1770	12 *May* 1771	*Prince of Wales* .	16. Select.
		12 *Dec.* 1770	9 *July* 1771 .	*Duke of Kingſton* .	25.
10 *April* 1771	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	*Colebrooke* and *Lord Holland* . . .	25 to 32, 81, 82, 135, 136. General.
				Ditto	1 to 5. General.
25 *April* 1771	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	*Lapwing*	13 to 17. General.
28 *Aug.* 1771	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .		

NUM.

NUM. XLVIII.

COPY of the Arzees, or Petitions of Munny Begum, *the Widow of the late Nabob* Meer Jaffier Ally Khawn, *to the Board of Revenue at* Murſhedabad, *as they ſtand recorded on their Conſultations of the 17th* December 1770.

Murſhedabad, the 17th December 1770.

At a Conſultation, preſent,

Richard Becher, Eſq; Preſident,
James Lawrell, and
John Graham, Eſquires.

Read the two following Arzees from *Munny*, **Begum* of the late *Meer Jaffier*.

IT is known to all ranks, both high and low, and to all my relations and kindred, that thirty years prior to this, *Meer Mahommed Jaffier Khawn*, when he was † Buckſhy, entered with me into the bands of matrimony, and intruſted me with the whole authority over the ‡ Mahalſerai, in which no one participated, but all were implicitly under my ſubjection. After he was exalted to the Subahdary, my power and dignity every day increaſed: I had the maintenance of his ſons: and when I accompanied him to *Calcutta*, the honor and dignity which I maintained, all the *Engliſh* gentlemen are well acquainted with. During his life time; after his reinſtatement to the Subahdary, I ſtill retained my former ſuperiority: but when he found the approach of death, in hopes of the bountiful favour of the Company, he placed my ſon, *Najim al Dowlah*, in his room, on the Muſnud, and took the road to Eternity. My ſon, alſo, through the will of the fates and *malignancy of his enemies*, without regaling himſelf long with the pleaſures of youth, finiſhed the journey of life, and being ſucceeded by *Seyf al Dowlah*, (who, likewiſe, in a ſhort ſpace of time waſhed his hands of this tranſient world,) I propoſed to myſelf, that, if the light of my eyes, *Mobareck al Dowlah*, was, with the conſent and approbation of the *Engliſh* gentlemen, placed upon the Muſnud of the Subahdary, I would undertake his education, and inſpect myſelf into affairs. The caſe of *Mobareck al Dowlah* is this, after being born of § BEW, *Meer Mahommed Jaffier Khawn*, according to cuſtom, committed him to my boſom, and having brought him up for twelve years, the Nabob, ‖ *Muzzuffer Jung*, has now ſeparated him from me, and has ſo far inveſted himſelf with the management of the buſineſs, that without a perwânah from him, no body can lay a hand on a barleycorn. He diſmiſſes the old ſervants at his pleaſure, and appoints new

* Dowager. † Paymaſter. ‡ The ſeraglio. § A concubine of *Meer Jaffier*'s.
‖ The title given *Mahommed Reza Khawn*.

ones

ones in their places; ſuffers no one to come within my court; and is daily purſuing meaſures to effect my degradation. Having contrived means to obtain a letter from Mr. *Cartier*, he has, to my diſhonour, publiſhed that *Bew*, the mother of *Mobareck al Dowlah*, is appointed to the principal authority in the *Mahalſerai*, and appointing ſervants, ſlaves, eunuchs, mutſeddees, munſhys, and guardians, *&c.* in his own behalf, he has uſurped the management of all affairs of the houſehold, and, *with a view to raiſe himſelf to the Subahdary*, without mentioning a word to me, is endeavouring to connect *Mobareck al Dowlah* with his kindred, by bringing about the nuptials between him and the daughter of *Fazzel Ally Khawn*, the ſon of *Attah ulla Khawn*, and brother-in-law to *Mahommed Reza Khawn*, born of a proſtitute. You, gentlemen, will pleaſe to conſider, with what religion is this conſiſtent? and beſides what I have related, he has acted a part unbecoming men of honour and dignity, and expoſed me to the infamy of the world, by artfully ſeducing from me the wife of *Seyf al Dowlah*, after his death, and committing her to the charge of her father *Mirza Miſſitch*. It is almoſt a year ſince I have received the leaſt trifle, in part of *my allowance from the Company*, and when I demand it, he anſwers, that of the 6000 rupees the Company have given orders that 300 ſhould be ſaved, and that he will pay me the balance as ſoon as the collections are forthcoming: in which caſe it is impoſſible for me to expreſs the difficulty I labour under, in regard to my expences; and my ſervants are in the greateſt diſtreſs. There is now no means for recovering the affairs of the houſhold out of this ſituation, unleſs you gentlemen of council will pleaſe to appoint ſome Mutſeddee to the charge of them, and ſuffer no one elſe to interfere. In the time of *Najim al Dowlah*, when he firſt came to the Muſnud, it was ordained that I ſhould have the inſpection and ſuperintendance of affairs; but after my ſons were of age to manage for themſelves, they had the whole authority. The reaſon of the Nabob *Muzzuffer Jung*'s enmity and reſentment is this: when Lord *Clive* came up the country he BORROWED the ſum of ſix lacks of rupees, for which he gave a * tunkhaw on *Muzzuffer Jung*; three lacks of which having diſcharged to me, I paid it to *Seyf al Dowlah*, which has exalted his diſpleaſure; and the remaining three lacks due on that account, as well as two lacks of the preſent arrears, he procraſtinates payment of; and, in order *to ſink this money for his own benefit*, has bound his loins with enmity to the utter ruin of my affairs, and to involve me in diſgrace and contempt. You will pleaſe to conſider, gentlemen, what the Nabob, † *Sabut Jung*, aſſigned for the ſupport of my honour and credit; who is he that oppoſes and counteracts his decrees? As I am acquainted with the affairs of the houſehold, fearful of diſcovery, he has placed me in obſcurity, and appointed ignorant people to authority, *who have lengthened the hand of uſurpation upon the treaſure and jewels.* The reaſon that I have not before repreſented my ſituation is, the Nabob *Muzzuffer Jung*'s accompanying Mr. *Becher* when he came to viſit me, by which means I was deprived of an opportunity of ſpeaking with him: but ſince, to my good

* An order for payment. † Lord *Clive*.

fortune,

fortune, Mr. *Reed*, Mr. *Lawrell*, and Mr. *Graham* are now arrived, and in their viſit adminiſtered me comfort; I eſteemed it the luckieſt of moments. And after having ſent away *Mobareck al Dowlah*, who at other times never came near me, and only accompanied the gentlemen at the incitement of my enemies, I revealed to them particularly, the uneaſineſs of my heart. For your information, I have likewiſe now wrote to you the particulars of my caſe, in hopes that you will yield me redreſs, otherwiſe I ſwear by God and Jeſus Chriſt, that I will leave *Murſhedabad to go to the Committee*; becauſe living in this diſgrace is worſe than death.

Tranſlation of an addreſs from the Begum to the board of revenues.

SINCE writing you a repreſentation of my caſe, a late extraordinary oppreſſion has happened to me: **Jaffier Gunge*, *Mehberra Gunge*, and the *Choulk* which were eſtabliſhed at my expence, and which have belonged to me ever ſince the time of Lord *Clive*, Mr. *Vanſittart*, Major *Adams*, General *Carnac*, and other *Engliſh* Sirdars; the Nabob *Muzzuffer Jung*, has now uſurped. Theſe Mahals I held from the Company and their Sirdars, to whom my life and property belong. Then who is he who can forcibly deprive me of them? It is from you, gentlemen, that I can expect redreſs for my grievances, and to be reſcued from the oppreſſive hands of my enemies.

Agreed, That the Naib Subahdar be requeſted to deliver in an anſwer on the different points the Begum's two Arzees treat of, when we will come to a reſolution of ſettling for her, an allowance ſuitable to her dignity and ſtation, and of obtaining her redreſs in any other points that may appear to be really grievances.

* Three markets whereof the Begum received the eſtabliſhed duties.

Num. XLIX.

AN ACCOUNT of the Profit and Loſs ariſing upon the Sales of the Goods imported from Aſia, *by the* East India *Company, in the Years* 1761, 1762, 1763, 1764, *and* 1765.

Years, and from whence imported.	Ship's Cargoes.	Prime Coſt.	Cuſtoms.	Freight and Demurrage.	Charges of Merchandize.	Amount Sales, Diſcount deducted.	Net Profit or Loſs.
1761							
Bengal	3¾	£. 292931	£. 183172	£. 69836	£. 38833	£. 727914	Profit, £. 143142
Fort St. George	¼	15766	18732	3974	2761	51627	Ditto, 10394
China	6	146648	188117	159952	37621	703508	Ditto, 171170
Mocha	1	36546	16855	18184	5176	96800	Ditto, 20039
							344745
Bombay	6	103566	13696	111880	10670	201184	Loſs, 38628
	17	£. 595457	£. 420572	£. 363826	£. 95061	£. 1781933	Profit, £. 306117
1762							
Bengal	5	£. 356850	£. 205202	£. 109376	£. 47113	£. 881032	Profit, £. 162491
Bombay	2	59992	16374	43435	7118	133872	Ditto, 6953
China	5	159098	173712	120397	34701	648916	Ditto, 161008
							£. 330452
Fort St. George	2	33365	37977	45936	5952	111285	Loſs, 11945
	14	£. 609305	£. 433265	£. 319144	£. 94884	£. 1775105	Profit, £. 318507
1763							
Bengal	6	£. 395550	£. 271041	£. 92998	£. 56247	£. 1052575	Profit, £. 236739
Fort St. George	2	97236	80052	43682	15827	295959	Ditto, 59162
Bombay	2	77160	11752	39101	7506	140363	Ditto, 4844
China	9	285195	297404	220034	61175	1143980	Ditto, 280172
Mocha	1	32611	13363	16863	4041	75569	Ditto, 8691
	20	£. 887752	£. 673612	£. 412678	£. 144796	£. 2708446	Profit, £. 589608
1764							
Bengal	3	£. 320077	£. 222774	£. 86047	£. 46499	£. 869523	Profit, £. 194126
Fort St. George	2	135437	135853	40654	22545	421593	Ditto, 87104
Bombay	1	33113	5283	19321	3756	70230	Ditto, 8757
China	12	375625	359074	309090	72302	1352047	Ditto, 235956
	18	£. 864252	£. 722984	£. 455112	£. 145102	£. 2713393	Profit, £. 525943
1765							
Bengal	3	£. 276772	£. 177131	£. 60867	£. 40055	£. 749027	Profit, £. 194202
Fort St. George	2	138200	137758	31587	22211	415342	Ditto, 85586
Bombay	3	92445	15067	62363	10788	203021	Ditto, 22358
China	12	365680	314584	274947	63087	1179724	Ditto, 161427
Mocha	1	37942	13594	16718	4103	76711	Ditto, 4355
	21	£. 911039	£. 658134	£. 446482	£. 140243	£. 2623825	Profit, £. 467927

NUM. L.

AN ACCOUNT of the Profit and Loss arising upon the Sales of the Goods imported from Asia, *by the* East India *Company, in the Years* 1766, 1767, 1768, 1769, *and* 1770.

Years, and from whence imported.	Ship's Cargoes.	Prime Cost.	Customs.	Freight and Demurrage.	Charges of Merchandize.	Amount Sales, Discount deducted.	Net Profit or Loss.
1766							
Bengal . .	5	£. 437512	£. 267540	£. 67096	£. 54616	£. 1022912	Profit, £. 196149
Fort St. George	2	151581	143863	48688	22300	417011	Ditto, . 50579
Bombay . .	5	143270	31466	91407	18100	338478	Ditto, . 54235
China . .	12	454837	291792	274094	63460	1186707	Ditto, . 102524
							403487
Bencoolen . .	.	170	125	1401	44	829	Loss. . . 911
	24	£. 1187369	£. 734786	£. 482686	£. 158520	£. 2965937	Profit, £. 402576
1767							
Bengal . .	5½	£. 565461	£. 308146	£. 72038	£. 63198	£. 1181803	Profit, £. 172960
Fort St. George	2½	196703	176413	45174	24740	462643	Ditto, . 19613
Bombay . .	2	67546	10096	36756	8713	163521	Ditto, . 40410
China	14	528795	320296	285931	70269	1314035	Ditto, . 108744
Mocha . . .	1	39124	16131	16031	4431	82852	Ditto, . . 7135
	25	£. 1397629	£. 831082	£. 455930	£. 171351	£. 3204854	Profit, £. 348862
1768							
Bengal . .	6	£. 658331	£. 349910	£. 90473	£. 69495	£. 1300420	Profit, £. 132201
Fort St. George	2	154894	139471	36844	20150	376799	Ditto, . 25440
Bombay . .	2	58556	7679	33842	7015	131191	Ditto, . 24099
Bencoolen . .	1	5416	2328	15291	2959	55327	Ditto, . 29233
China . . .	9	497557	240756	169677	62695	1172401	Ditto, . 201716
	20	£. 1374764	£. 740244	£. 346127	£. 162314	£. 3036138	Profit, £. 412689
1769							
Bengal . .	7½	£. 742288	£. 404345	£. 112353	£. 76613	£. 1433072	Profit, £. 97473
Fort St. George	1½	101944	86821	24429	13493	250634	Ditto, . 24046
Bencoolen . .	1	7951	2280	17909	2720	50867	Ditto, . 20007
China	13	618503	402614	251180	93920	1756308	Ditto, . 390091
							£. 531617
Bombay . .	5	129451	20296	73467	12349	231305	£. 4258 Loss
Mocha . .	1	36516	12658	13461	3500	65449	686 Ditto
							4944
	29	£. 1636653	£. 929014	£. 492790	£. 202505	£. 3787635	Profit, £. 526673
1770							
Bengal . .	6	£. 633665	£. 301573	£. 90987	£. 62575	£. 1170519	Profit, £. 81719
Fort St. George	1	72208	57096	12504	9903	185182	Ditto, . 33471
Bombay . .	3	87267	19985	46962	9198	171997	Ditto, . 8585
Bencoolen . .	1	9015	2347	17904	2562	47910	Ditto, . 16082
China	16	495623	516383	301869	101807	1903799	Ditto, . 488117
	27	£. 1297778	£. 897384	£. 470226	£. 186045	£. 3479407	Profit, £. 627974

GENERAL ABSTRACT of the preceding Accounts.

For the Years 1761, 1762, 1763, 1764, and 1765.

From whence imported.	Ship's Cargoes.	Prime Coſt.	Cuſtoms.	Freight and Demurrage.	Charges of Merchandize.	Amount Sales, Diſcount deducted.	Net Profit.
Bengal . .	20¾	£. 1642180	£. 1059320	£. 419124	£. 228747	£. 4280071	Profit, £. 930700
Fort St. George	8¼	420004	410372	165833	69296	1295806	Ditto, . 230301
Bombay . .	14	366276	62172	276100	39838	748670	Ditto, . 4284
China . . .	44	1332246	1332891	1084420	268886	5028175	Ditto, . 1009732
Mocha . . .	3	107099	43812	51765	13319	249080	Ditto, . 33085
	90	£. 3867805	£. 2908567	£. 1997242	£. 620086	£. 11601802	Profit, £. 2208102

For the Years 1766, 1767, 1768, 1769, and 1770.

Bengal . .	30	£. 3037266	£. 1631514	£. 432647	£. 326497	£. 6108726	Profit, £. 680502
Fort St. George	9	677330	603664	167630	90496	1692269	Ditto, . 153149
Bombay . .	17	486090	89522	282434	55375	1036492	Ditto, . 123071
China . . .	64	2595315	1771841	1282751	392151	7333250	Ditto, . 1291192
Mocha . . .	2	75640	28789	29492	7931	148301	Ditto, . 6449
Bencoolen . .	3	22552	7180	52505	8285	154933	Ditto, . 64411
	125	£. 6894193	£. 4132510	£. 2247759	£. 880735	£. 16473971	Profit, £. 2318774

NUM. LI.

EXTRACTS from the general Letter written by the Court of East-India *Directors to their Preſident and Council at* Calcutta. *Dated the* 10*th* April 1771.

PAR. XVI. IT having been repreſented to us, that the Company may be greatly benefited in the ſale of broad cloth, iron, copper, lead, and other *European* commodities, by ſending proper perſons to reſide at *Rungpore*, and to explore the interior parts of *Bootan*, *Aſſam*, and other countries adjacent to *Gualparah*, and as you well know our earneſt deſire to extend the vent of the ſtaples of this kingdom to as great a degree as poſſible, we are ſurpriſed you have not already made an attempt to carry ſo deſirable an object into execution. You are therefore required to procure the beſt accounts poſſible, and give us your opinion thereon.

XVII. On comparing the once-flouriſhing ſtate of the commerce of *Bengal* with the gradual decline it has undergone for ſeveral years paſt, it gives us the greateſt

greateſt concern that ſo unhappy a change ſhould have happened under our government, and at a time when our influence over the whole country was ſufficiently eſtabliſhed to enable our ſervants to remove every viſible ſource of this unnatural decay. Hence we have been led to the moſt ſerious inquiry and inveſtigation of the various cauſes which may have produced ſuch fatal effects; and as in this reſearch there have ariſen to our view many evils which muſt have brought on the preſent declining ſtate of the country, we ſhall here point out ſuch remedies as we deem equally neceſſary and effectual for reſtoring *Bengal* to its former vigour, and to the full exerciſe and circulation of that commerce from which the Company as well as the Kingdom itſelf, had received ſuch great and manifeſt advantages.

XVIII. As freedom in trade is neceſſarily productive of its increaſe, the mode of providing your inveſtments by Gomaſtahs, Dallals, and Pykars, muſt be a perpetual bar to that freedom which we are ſo ſolicitous to eſtabliſh, we therefore hereby order and direct, that you revert to your former practice of providing inveſtments by contracts with *Dadney* merchants; and in the conduct of this meaſure you muſt, by a general publication of our intentions, invite as great a number of merchants to deliver propoſals, and make your contracts as extenſive as poſſible; being attentive, at the ſame time, to the improvement of the ſeveral manufactures, and taking care that you engage only with merchants of good character, and ſufficiently valid for the full performance of their contracts.

XIX. Though by increaſing the number of *Dadney* merchants, the Company's riſk, in the advances it may be neceſſary to make, will be leſſened, you muſt however require from them a proper and competent ſecurity for their engagements; as we cannot conſider the merchants being bound for each other, as ſufficient to prevent the loſſes we may be ſubject to by the failure of particular perſons. It is no leſs expedient, that the *Dadney* merchants, with whom you may contract, be liable, and agree to ſuch penalties as have been cuſtomary, or may be requiſite, for ſecuring to the Company the full and timely delivery of the goods they ſhall engage to provide; and for preventing any debaſement in the quality, or deficiency in the meaſure thereof. And theſe merchants muſt alſo be bound, under proper penalties, not to purchaſe, or provide for any perſon or perſons whatſoever, ſuch ſorts and ſpecies of goods and manufactures as they ſhall contract to ſupply for your inveſtment.

XX. As on the revival of the ancient mode of providing inveſtments, by *Dadney*-merchants, you may not, for ſome time at leaſt, be able to procure from them ſuch a quantity of goods as our occaſions may require, you are, in ſuch caſe, to open your warehouſes, for ready money purchaſes of ſuch articles as may be wanted to ſupply the deficiency of your contracts, and may be fit and proper for the *Europe*-market.—But, as we are apprehenſive that ſuch purchaſes may furniſh us with goods of the common aſſortments only, you muſt be attentive to ſecure, by your contracts, as large a proviſion as poſſible of the beſt and approved fabricks.—To this injunction we are not only led by preſent neceſſity, but we aſſure ourſelves, that by ſuch means the manufactures of *Bengal* will ſoon be reſtored to their former degree of fineneſs and eſtimation; ſo that *our ſhips may not, as of late, be returned to us with depreciated fabricks,*

ſome of which have ſcarce produced their original coſts.—And in theſe important objects, we hope and truſt, that your regard for our intereſts will engage you to purſue ſuch meaſures as ſhall be moſt likely to promote our views, and effect our deſigns for the benefit of the country, as well as the Company's commerce.

XXI. As the aim of our orders for removing from the *Aurungs* the Company's Gomaſtahs, and agents of any denomination, is to relieve the weavers and manufacturers, who have long groaned under the oppreſſions of ſuch petty tyrants, we earneſtly recommend to you to conſider and apply the moſt effectual means to prevent the Gomaſtahs and agents of any perſons, under our juriſdiction, from exerciſing the like abuſes, exactions, and extortions as we have reaſon to fear have been committed by perſons under ſanction of the Company's name.—You are alſo, by maintaining a due execution of juſtice in the ſeveral courts throughout the provinces, to afford the oppreſſed natives all ſuch relief as may encourage them to purſue with alacrity their ſeveral occupations; and by convincing them of the benefits of our influence, excite them to recompenſe, by their induſtry, the attention of their benefactors.

XXII. As it is impoſſible for us to be minutely informed of the regulations eſtabliſhed by the conſtitution of the country, for the ſecurity of the perſons and properties of the native inhabitants, it muſt therefore reſt on your local knowledge, to judge, if the internal policy and the executive parts of juſtice be defective in any point, or too confined to yield that univerſal relief which we are ſolicitous to obtain for every individual. In caſe the means ſhould not be equal to this end, you muſt not fail to employ your influence with the government, to ſupply all defects, and to inſtitute ſuch inferior orders of magiſtracy as may be wanting for the entire protection of all ranks and degrees of the people.

XXIII. Should the ſuperior courts in the ſeveral diſtricts require any reform, your own judgment will ſuggeſt to you the means, and your humanity will excite your efforts for preventing any abuſes or negligences in the due courſe of juſtice.—We muſt, however, particularly recommend, that all power of the judges, in impoſing arbitrary fines, be immediately aboliſhed, and it will be proper, that the Sunnuds, appointing judges for the *Mahommedans*, or Brahmins for the *Hindoos*, be regiſtered in form; and that a record be made of the ſentences in the Nabob's courts; one copy to be kept in the Cutcherry, and another tranſmitted to *Murſhedabad*.

XXIV. As it may happen, that the proceſſes of the courts, while they aim at the remedy of one evil, may be productive of another, you muſt enjoin our ſervants, wherever they ſhall be ſtationed, to recommend in all matters of property between the natives, that they adjuſt their differences by arbitration, inſtead of legal ſuits, which may involve both parties in trouble and expence.—And having reaſon to apprehend, that the abuſes of the country-courts, in requiring the different parties to give ſecurity for the payment of Chout, on the adjuſtment of diſputes by arbitration, have tended greatly to diſcourage this mode of deciding differences, you muſt uſe your influence with the government for the abolition of the Chout, exacted by the courts, in caſes of arbitration.

XXV.

XXV. From a conviction, that the moſt effectual means to reſtore and invigorate the trade of *Bengal* will be the opening of every proper channel for its extenſion, and giving it that general freedom which is ſo neceſſary to encourage the induſtry, and attract the attention of the natives, we can no longer permit our ſervants, of any rank or ſtation whatever, to enjoy the excluſive privilege of duſtucks.—And here, when we ſpeak of duſtucks, you are to underſtand, not only duſtucks, but rowanahs, perwânahs, orders, letters, or any other powers or favours which may be conferred; or which can, in any way, yield an influence or ſuperiority in favour of one more than another, and this without the leaſt diſtinction to nation or complexion.

XXVI. It is therefore our pleaſure, that all duſtucks be immediately withdrawn, and that native merchants as well as *Europeans*, under our protection, may have every excitement to extend their views to the increaſe of that commerce which, we have reaſon to fear, has been long languiſhing under thoſe diſcouragements which the privileges of our ſervants have enabled them to lay on the general circulation of trade.

XXVII. Perſuaded, as we are, that the internal traffick of *Bengal* has received farther checks from the duties which are levied, and the exactions which are impoſed at petty Chokeys, we poſitively direct that no ſuch Chokeys be ſuffered to continue (on any pretence whatever) to impede the courſe of commerce from one part of the provinces to another.

XXVIII. It is, however, neceſſary that the nine general Chokeys which have been eſtabliſhed for collecting the duties payable to the Sircar ſhould remain, and thoſe only; and that a perſon, on the part of the Nabob, ſhould reſide at each Chokey, to receive the uſual and eſtabliſhed tolls.—And that one or more of our civil ſervants, on behalf of the Company, as Dewans, ſhould be ſtationed at each Chokey to ſuperintend the receipts, keep proper regiſters of all collections; and take care that no impoſitions or irregularities be committed.

XXIX. And you are to give the moſt peremptory and poſitive orders for their ſending to the Preſidency monthly accounts of the collections, minutely ſpecifying the names of the ſeveral perſons who may pay the duties; the number of boats; the quality and quantity of the goods; the name of the perſon to whom ſuch goods belong; the day of payment; and the time ſuch cargoes are detained, and when diſpatched, with a full and ample ſtate of all tranſactions whatever: theſe accounts are to be tranſmitted within ten days after the expiration of each month, to the board of revenue, who are to ſuperintend their conduct, and, from time to time, give them ſuch directions as they ſhall think neceſſary.

XXX. As we underſtand, that the Subjects of other *European* nations, though they claim a right to Duſtucks, have conſtantly paid a certain regulated toll at the general Chokeys, the accuſtomed duties muſt be collected from them, by the government, in the manner hitherto practiſed; for it is our poſitive injunction, that no extraordinary tolls be levied, and no obſtructions, or unneceſſary delays be given to their paſſage, ſo that they may not have any juſt cauſe to complain of arbitrary proceedings, or any undue exerciſe of our power, as Dewans.

XXXI.

XXXI. With reſpect to the natives and all others under our juriſdiction, we farther direct that no oppreſſions or impediments be laid on their traffick up and down the river; but that, upon their conforming to ancient cuſtoms, and paying the eſtabliſhed duties, the paſſage of their goods be facilitated by all poſſible diſpatch.

XXXII. Senſible that the abolition of Duſtucks may deprive ſome of our ſervants of advantages, which they may not have forfeited by any abuſe of ſuch privilege, we ſhall not be inattentive to ſome proper means of extending our favour to them. We therefore direct, that for all duties which may be paid by our ſervants, of the ſeveral ranks, to which we before allowed the uſe of Duſtucks, certificates be granted them by the collectors, at the eſtabliſhed Chokeys: and upon their making affidavit, that the goods on which ſuch imports were levied were on their own account, and not directly or indirectly the property of any other perſon whatever, you are to tranſmit to us an account, for one year, of all ſuch certificates, diſtinguiſhed under the different ranks and denominations of our reſpective ſervants; the better to enable us to judge what gratification it may be proper to beſtow, as an incitement to their diligence, and to the faithful diſcharge of their ſeveral duties.

(For the XXXIIId and XXXIVth paragraphs of this letter, relative to the trading into *Sujah al Dowlah*'s dominions, ſee letter E, number XCIII. of this Appendix.)

XXXV. Convinced of the benefits which muſt reſult, both to the Company and the province of *Bengal*, from ſuch intercourſe of traffick, it muſt be your care, to avoid giving *Sujah al Dowlah* the leaſt reaſon to deſire the revocation of his grant, or a diminution of its effects in any one inſtance.—And while our views herein are no ways to interfere with the orders we have given for reſtricting the reſidence of free merchants to the preſidency, we cannot apprehend that any abuſe of theſe privileges of a free trade will prevent the Subahdar from ſeconding our deſigns, and affording us an advantage which muſt tend to his own as well as the Company's intereſt. And as our purpoſe may be more eaſily obtained, and better effected by proper regulations, you will recommend to *Sujah al Dowlah* the eſtabliſhing of one Chokey on the *Caramnaſſa*, at the frontier of his territories; and that permits be there granted, giving an exemption to all boats paſſing that Chokey into his dominions, from any further ſearch, hindrance, or moleſtation.

XXXVI. When we advert to the encomiums you have paſſed on your own abilities and prudence, and on your attention to the Company's intereſt (in the expoſtulation you have thought proper to make on our appointment of Commiſſioners to ſuperintend our general affairs in *India*) we cannot but obſerve with aſtoniſhment, that an event of ſo much importance as the death of the Nabob *Seyf al Dowlah*, and the eſtabliſhment of a ſucceſſor in ſo great a degree of non-age, ſhould not have been attended with thoſe advantages for the Company, which ſuch a circumſtance offered to your view.

XXXVII. We mean not here to diſapprove the preſerving of the ſucceſſion in the family of *Meer Jaffier*; on the contrary, both juſtice and policy recommend a meaſure which at once correſponds with the cuſtoms and inclinations of the people in *Bengal*.—But when we conſider the ſtate of minority

of

of the new Subahdar, we know not on what grounds it could have been thought neceſſary to continue to him the ſtipend allotted to his adult predeceſſors.

XXXVIII. Convinced, as we are, that an allowance of ſixteen lacks *per annum* will be ſufficient for the ſupport of the Nabob's ſtate and rank, while a minor, we muſt conſider every addition thereto, as ſo much to be waſted on a herd of paraſites and ſycophants, who will continually ſurround him; or at leaſt to be hoarded up, a conſequence ſtill more pernicious to the Company.—You are therefore, during the non-age of the Nabob, *to reduce his annual ſtipend to ſixteen lacks of rupees*: and this we have the greater reaſon to require, as we find ourſelves ſubjected to the payment of large ſums, due from the revenues of the Dewannee before the Company became poſſeſſed thereof, on account of the navy donation, and the arrears of that to the army, the balance due for the reſtitution to *Europeans*, Colonel *Monro*'s demand of two lacks, the debt due to *Bolakydaſs*, and the annual ſum of one lack, for ten years, which we have agreed to pay to *Juggut Seat*: all which preſs on us with ſuch united force, that our treaſury will be unable to ſatisfy theſe ſeveral demands, without wounding our commercial intereſts, and endangering our poſſeſſions in *Bengal*. Being once relieved from this load of incumbrances, the ſavings we may expect from this reduction will properly become a fund for military exigencies: which fund, being ſolely applicable to the defence of the provinces, will contribute no leſs to the Nabob's future benefit than to that of the Company.

XXXIX. At a time when every juſtifiable meaſure ſhould be adopted, for availing the public and the Company of all the advantage we had in proſpect from our poſſeſſion of the Dewannee, we cannot but reflect on the diſſipation of a conſiderable part thereof by the allowances to the Nabob's miniſters.

XL. And here we muſt obſerve, that how great ſoever the application of *Mahommed Reza Khawn*, and his adherence to the Company's intereſt may have been, his rewards have been more than adequate thereto: and as the buſineſs of the collections of our revenues, when they ſhall have been thoroughly inveſtigated by the ſupraviſors appointed for that purpoſe, will require little or no aſſiſtance from that miniſter, we muſt deem *the continuance of his preſent ſalary as a waſte* of thoſe reſources which are become ſo eſſentially neceſſary, both for the ſecurity of our poſſeſſions and the extenſion of your inveſtments. *It is therefore our pleaſure, that the annual allowance of nine lacks, which he has hitherto enjoyed, be no longer continued to him.* But as the minority of the Nabob will make it requiſite for you to appoint, as his guardian, a perſon of experience in the affairs of government, and of approved attachment to the Company's intereſts, your choice muſt reſt on *Mahommed Reza Khawn*, and *you are to allow him, whilſt in that ſtation, a ſalary of five lacks of rupees per annum*, which we conſider not only as ſuitable to ſuch a ſtation, but as a munificent reward for the ſervices he may render the Company in the execution of his office.

XLI. The annual allowance to *Juggut Seat*, as aſſiſtant to *Mahommed Reza Khawn*, has been a drain on our revenues, *without the leaſt benefit from his adminiſtration; for we are well aſſured, that he has never afforded us a ſingle inſtance*

ſtance of ſervice; his allowance, therefore, muſt be immediately ſtruck off.—But with regard to *Roydoolub*, though we cannot expect from him any ſervices equal to his preſent appointment, yet, in conſideration of the part he has long held in the affairs of government, and his advanced age, we are diſpoſed to continue the ſalary he now enjoys; but, on his death, this allowance is not to be given to any perſon whatever.

XLII. As the reduction of the Nabob's ſtipend is adventitious and temporary, we by no means intend that the commiſſion of two and one half *per cent.* granted to our ſervants, on our net territorial revenues ſhould be increaſed by this alteration, and therefore, the former ſtipend, of thirty-ſix lacks, muſt ſtill be deducted from the groſs amount of thoſe revenues.—In like manner, no commiſſion muſt be drawn on the ſums which may be retrenched from the appointments to the Nabob's miniſters.

XLIII. Having already appriſed you of the purpoſes to which we mean to appropriate the ſavings above-mentioned, we have only to direct, that when the navy and army donations, the debt due to *Bolakydaſs*, and the ſtipulated payment to *Juggut Seat* ſhall have been wholly ſatisfied, and reimburſed to us out of the aggregate reductions before-mentioned, ſuch further ſums as ſhall ariſe therefrom are to be applied, from time to time, to clear the balance unpaid to the claimants of the reſtitution fund, and the donation of two lacks to Colonel *Munro*, in ſuch proportions as the reſpective claims may bear to each other, until the whole ſhall be diſcharged: but you are to take notice, that the principal only of the ſums due from the Sircar are to be conſidered, and allowed in the payments here ordered.

XLIV. The advantages which muſt accrue to the Company from the reſidence of the King within our provinces are, both in the view of œconomy and ſound policy, too obvious to need any illuſtration: this object therefore exacts your moſt ſerious attention; and requires every judicious effort which can improve his confidence in our attachment to him, and thereby the better engage his compliance with our wiſhes in this reſpect.

XLV. As this point is equally delicate and important, we recommend to you, to lay hold of the firſt favourable opportunity which ſhall offer for an overture to the King on the ſubject; in which we doubt not but your own judgment will ſuggeſt to you the expediency of repreſenting all the benefits his Majeſty will find from having the forces of the Company nearer his perſon, and ready to unite, on any occaſion (in ſupport of our alliance with him) without being obliged to march through the territories of any one who may be diſpoſed to take advantage of our ſituation, in any accidental circumſtance of weakneſs and diſtreſs.——To this plea muſt be added, the ill effects of the continual drains of the ſpecie of *Bengal*, on account of his annual tribute; which, when carried beyond our poſſeſſions muſt, in a great degree, be loſt to the neceſſary circulation, and may prevent that punctuality in our remittances which we have hitherto maintained; and *may in time wholly incapacitate us from fulfilling the ſtipulations we are ſo deſirous to preſerve inviolate.*

XLVI. Theſe, and ſuch farther arguments as ſhall appear moſt conducive to the end, will, we hope, prevail on the King to eſtabliſh his reſidence at *Ragemahl*, or *Mongheer*, or ſuch other place, within the provinces, as may be thought

thought moſt proper for the purpoſe, and moſt likely to preſerve to us that influence which is ſo eſſential to the Company's welfare.

XLVII. The political intereſts of the Company make us no leſs ſolicitous to obtain, from *Sujah al Dowlah*, an exchange of the territories of *Bultwanſing* for the provinces of *Korah* and *Illahabad*, now held for the King; as by ſuch an exchange, our frontiers would be more eaſily defended, a greater influence would be preſerved by us over the neighbouring powers, and we might poſſibly be relieved from the neceſſity of keeping up ſo large and expenſive a military eſtabliſhment as we have at preſent in *Bengal*.

XLVIII. We are not inſenſible of the difficulties which may oppoſe your negociations on this ſubject.—Theſe, however, we perſuade ourſelves, may in time be overcome by a proper attention on the part of our ſervants, and by their availing themſelves of the circumſtances which may occur, either in the ſituation, deſires, projects, temper, or wants of this prince.—And we recommend to you to lay hold of every opportunity which may offer for accompliſhing, by a friendly negociation, ſo deſirable an end.

XLIX. There is another object of the moſt eſſential conſequence, which calls for the utmoſt exertion of your abilities: we mean the obtaining from *Sujah al Dowlah* the abſolute ceſſion to us of the fort of *Chunar*.

L. As we have experienced the ſtrength of this fortreſs, and are ſenſible of the vaſt importance the poſſeſſion of it would be of to the Company, you muſt uſe your utmoſt endeavours to acquire, by friendly means, what could not be retained without violence.—We therefore enjoin you not to leave uneſſayed any effort, which prudence can ſuggeſt, for obtaining from *Sujah al Dowlah* the ceſſion of *Chunar-fort*: but as our view is to acquire it by treaty, and not by force; and conſidering alſo the ſituation, power, and influence of this Subahdar, your negociations muſt be conducted with the greateſt caution and delicacy; and you muſt ſtrive, by every fair and honourable means, to ſtrengthen his friendſhip and engage his confidence, nevertheleſs you muſt not abate of your attention to all his motions, nor forego any opportunity to impreſs him with an opinion of our activity and power.

LI. And here we take occaſion to obſerve, that ſhould we at any time obtain from him the ceſſion of this fortreſs, you muſt not fail to keep in it a ſtrong garriſon of *Europeans*, under the command of an able and experienced officer, which ſuch poſſeſſion would enable you to do; ſince the ſecurity which our poſſeſſions would thereby receive, would admit of a reduction in our other garriſons.

LII. Senſible of the difficulties which oppoſed your endeavours to obtain the removal of Monſieur *Gentil* from the court and councils of *Sujah al Dowlah*, we approve of the delicacy with which you have acted towards the Vizier, in your requiſitions on this ſubject. But as we cannot ſee a perſon of the abilities of Monſieur *Gentil* (a natural enemy of this nation, as well as of the Company) continuing in poſſeſſion of a power to promote the deſigns of *France*, and not be alarmed for the conſequences of his influence at the Subahdar's court, you muſt, therefore, lay hold of the firſt favourable opportunity to renew your requeſt to *Sujah al Dowlah*, to remove Monſieur *Gentil* from his ſervice.

LIII. From the tenderneſs and caution obſerved in your former applications to the Vizier, we cannot doubt, but that you will conduct yourſelves with equal circumſpection on any future occaſion, more eſpecially as the other intereſting points which you will have to tranſact with him, render it eſſentially neceſſary for you to conciliate his affections, and engage his confidence in our alliance: whereby he may be the more readily diſpoſed to comply with our deſires reſpecting other important objects, as well as the diſmiſſion of Mr. *Gentil*.

LIV. Your repreſentation of the diſtreſſed ſtate of the ſurviving family of *Serfraz Khawn* has excited in us ſo great compaſſion for them, on account of the preſent reverſe of their former ſplendor and affluence, that we aſſent to the addition of one thouſand rupees *per* month, which you have made to the allowance before granted to that family, on the reſervation of their talook to the ſole uſe and benefit of the Company.

LV. As the re-annexing to the revenues of the Sircar, the jagueer, of rupees 22,000 *per annum*, which had been ſettled on *Maharajah Dirgenarain*, has reduced him to a ſtate of indigence, we are inclined, from the like motives of compaſſion, to turn our view from that miſmanagement which occaſioned his preſent unhappy circumſtances.—In conſideration therefore of his diſtreſs, and the ſervices which his brother *Ramnarain* hath rendered the Company, we aſſent alſo to the allowance of rupees 1200 *per* month, granted by you to the *Maharajah* for his ſupport.

LXXXIV. In order to determine your powers for ſending home perſons who may have infringed the rights of the Company, or acted in defiance of the authority veſted by us in our ſervants, we herewith tranſmit, in duplicate to our Preſident and Council, a particular power, or commiſſion, under the Company's ſeal for that purpoſe; and as you will thereby ſee how far our ſervants are juſtified in ſeizing and ſending to *England* any of his Majeſty's ſubjects who may violate the rights and privileges granted to the Company by ſundry Acts of Parliament, we refer you to the ſame for your guidance.

LXXXV. To remedy ſeveral defects in the engagements which have been formerly entered into with us, by our ſervants, both civil and military, and by ſurgeons, free merchants, free mariners, and others, that are now, or may hereafter be employed by the Company, or permitted to reſide in *India*, under our licence and protection, we have thought proper (with the advice of our Standing Council and Solicitor) to add ſome clauſes to the covenants uſually entered into by the civil and military ſervants and free merchants, in order to reſtrain them from aſſiſting foreign companies, or ſupplying country-powers with warlike ſtores, and to prevent them from remaining in *India* beyond a time limited, after proper notice given them to depart.

LXXXVI. With the ſame view we have thought it neceſſary, that all ſurgeons and free mariners ſhould enter into covenants with the Company, nearly to the like effect as the reſtrictive clauſes above-mentioned.

LXXXVII. But that all our civil and military ſervants and ſurgeons, or aſſiſtant ſurgeons, as likewiſe the free merchants and free mariners now in *India*, may be put upon an equality in their covenant-engagements with the Company, with thoſe who ſhall go from *England* this ſeaſon, or hereafter, we now ſend you, by the ſhip *Colebrooke*, ſuch a number of covenants as,

upon

upon a calculate made, we deem ſufficient to be entered into by the perſons under the above deſcriptions, that may be employed in, or reſide at, or under our Preſidency at *Bengal*.—Upon the receipt of theſe advices and covenants, it is our poſitive order and direction, that each of the above deſcribed perſons be, ſo ſoon after the *Colebrooke*'s arrival as convenient, required to ſign one of the ſaid covenants, according to the rank and ſtation he may be in. And ſhould any perſon refuſe a compliance with this our order, if he is in our ſervice, he muſt be diſmiſſed therefrom, and SENT HOME; or if one under our protection, ſuch protection is to be withdrawn from him, and the perſon ſo refuſing, to be SENT TO ENGLAND.

LXXXVIII. In the above paragraph you will obſerve, we have directed one covenant to be executed by each perſon: which covenant, after being executed, and witneſſed by two perſons, as to the ſealing and delivery by the party, and by one perſon as to the covenanter having previouſly read the ſame, muſt be forwarded to us by the firſt conveyance after the execution. And upon our receiving the ſame, and ſecurity being given by two perſons here, in the under-mentioned ſums ſet againſt the reſpective ſtations, we ſhall tranſmit a counter-part of each covenant, with the Company's ſeal affixed thereto; which counter-part you muſt duly deliver to the party concerned.—And here it is needful to obſerve, that you muſt injoin each perſon to deſire two reſponſible perſons in *England* to enter into the above ſecurity-bonds.

The bond for the Governor is to be in . .	£. 10,000	Each factor	£. 1000
Each counſellor	4000	Each writer	500
Each ſenior merchant . .	3000	Each ſurgeon or aſſiſtant .	1000
Each junior merchant . .	2000	Each free merchant . . .	2000
		Each free mariner . . .	500

LXXXIX. And for your fuller information in this matter, and to prevent miſtakes in filling up, we have forwarded in the packet by the *Colebrooke*, copies of the covenants to be entered into by the reſpective perſons above-mentioned.

N. B. The Court of Directors choſen for the year ending in *April* 1771, conſiſted of the following gentlemen:

Sir *George Colebrooke*, Bart. Chairman,
John Purling, Eſq; Deputy,

Benjam Booth, Eſq;
Henry Crabb Boulton, Eſq;
Charles Chambers, jun. Eſq;
Sir *James Cockburn*, Bart.
George Cuming, Eſq;
Edward Holden Cruttenden, Eſq;
William Devaynes, Eſq;
George Dudley, Eſq;
Robert Gregory, Eſq;
John Harriſon, Eſq;
Joſeph Hurlock, Eſq;
William James, Eſq;
Peter Laſcelles, Eſq;
John Manſhip, Eſq;
John Michie, Eſq;
Frederick Pigou, Eſq;
Thomas Rous, Eſq;
John Roberts, Eſq;
Henry Savage, Eſq;
Edward Wheler, Eſq;
Daniel Wier, Eſq; and
John Woodhouſe, Eſq;

NUM. LII.

EXTRACTS from the General Letter written by the Court of East India *Directors to their Preſident and Council at* Calcutta. *Dated the 28th* Auguſt 1771, *ſent per* Lapwing Packet.

PAR. IX. AT a time when famine was depopulating a country with which we are ſo immediately connected, and in the proſperity whereof we are ſo deeply intereſted, we cannot but highly approve every well-meant and generous effort to relieve the miſeries of the poor inhabitants; by whom, in an eſpecial manner, the calamity muſt have been experienced in all its dreadful conſequences. And as we enjoy a very ſingular pleaſure in commending thoſe of our ſervants whoſe attention has been turned towards alleviating the general diſtreſs, ſo are we filled with the greateſt indignation, on finding a charge exhibited againſt any perſon whatever (but eſpecially natives of *England*) for monopolizing grain; and thereby aggravating the woes, and no doubt increaſing the numbers of wretched mortals labouring under the moſt awful circumſtances which could poſſibly happen to any people whatſoever.

X. We are led to theſe reflexions by peruſing the letters from Mr. *Becher* and *Mahommed Reza Khawn*, which accuſe the *Gomaſtahs of* Engliſh *gentlemen*, not barely for monopolizing grain, but for compelling the poor ryots to ſell, *even the ſeed requiſite for the next harveſt*. It was natural for us to expect, upon reading the above advices, that the ſtricteſt inquiry into the names and ſtations of all perſons capable of ſuch tranſactions would have been the immediate conſequence; and that the moſt exemplary puniſhment had been inflicted upon all offenders, who could dare to counteract the benevolence of the Company, and entertain a thought of profiting by the univerſal diſtreſs of the miſerable natives, *whoſe dying cries, it is ſaid, were too affecting to admit of an adequate deſcription!*

XI. You will judge, from hence, how great muſt have been our ſurprize on obſerving, that upon a general charge of this nature having been made, and *not one name ſpecified*, either by Mr. *Becher* or *Mahommed Reza Khawn*, you never entered into any inquiry at all about the matter! And what ſeems equally ſtrange and abſurd, you, in general terms, tell the Reſident at the *Durbar*, he may depend on your concurrence in *every meaſure that may tend to relieve the diſtreſs of the poor in this time of dearth*; and yet reject the only particular remedy pointed out, and recommended by him for that purpoſe. And on this occaſion we muſt remark, that whatever other expedients might have been applied, none could, in our opinion, have operated more ſpeedily or effectually than that ſuggeſted by Mr. *Becher*, of totally prohibiting all *Europeans*, in their private capacity, or their Gomaſtahs, from dealing in rice, during the ſcarcity of that article.—But as part of the charge ſets forth, that the Ryots were *compelled* to ſell their rice to theſe monopolizing *Europeans*, we have reaſon to ſuſpect, that *they could be no other than perſons of ſome rank in our ſervice*; otherwiſe, we apprehend, they would not have preſumed

preſumed on having influence ſufficient to prevent an inquiry into their proceedings, in caſe they were hardy enough to attempt the oppreſſion of the natives, or to monopolize the neceſſaries of life; for though theſe practices are at all times unwarrantable, and very deſtructive, they were rendered exceedingly ſo by the unhappy circumſtances of the provinces at that conjuncture.

XII. We do therefore poſitively direct you to examine impartially the above charge, which we cannot ſuppoſe would have been made if there had been no foundation at all for it; and we direct, that whoever may be found guilty of a conduct which appears to us ſo unworthy, be forthwith diſmiſſed from our ſervice (or deprived of our protection if not in our ſervice) and ſent to *Europe*, as a warning to all perſons, not to contribute towards oppreſſing the poor; which we are determined never to permit, whilſt in our power to prevent it, nor to ſpare the offenders, whenever we may be able to detect them.

XIII. The numberleſs complaints which you ſay you have received from the merchants of *Calcutta*, reſpecting the ſalt-trade, and the perwânahs granted under the ſeal of *Mahommed Reza Khawn*, for a monopoly of the trade for three years, exhibit a ſcheme ſo contrary to our expectations, ſo oppoſite to our intentions, and ſo contradictory to our poſitive commands, that we can by no means approve your lenient conduct, either towards *Mahommed Reza Khawn*, or *Tillack Ram*; the latter of whom, under different Zemindars, was, it ſeems, the man appointed to be the actual monopoliſt of that article. —We are well perſuaded that *Mahommed Reza Khawn* could not be ſo eaſily impoſed upon as he pretends to have been, by perſons who are ſaid to have ſolicited the perwânahs.—It is not at all probable, that he could believe the ſalt-works were unoccupied, whilſt ſo many merchants were even clamorous for a ſhare in the trade: but ſuppoſing he had believed it, as he owns he was at that time in *Calcutta*, his plain duty was, to have repreſented the matter directly to our Governor and Council; and not to have granted very extraordinary privileges to individuals, in direct contradiction to the Company's orders, with which he was perfectly acquainted. But it appears to us very probable, that *Mahommed Reza Khawn*'s undue influence had totally diſcouraged the merchants: and it is no wonder they became willing to receive back their money, when they could no longer indulge an expectation of obtaining any ſalt: but we obſerve however, that they were as unable to recover their advances as to proſecute their * trade.

XIV. As *Mahommed Reza Khawn* had the expreſs † orders of the Company, and the regulations of the Committee before him, for his guidance; we are greatly aſtoniſhed that he ſhould preſume, on ſuch frivolous pretences, to diſobey the one, and totally to diſregard the other. And it is impoſſible,

* The reader may judge from this account, what would have been the conſequences, had the plan been adopted, of putting the whole trade in ſalt under the management of this miniſter, as was propoſed by Mr. *Sykes*. See Number XXVIII. Page 160.

† It was highly unjuſt to condemn *Mahommed Reza Khawn* on this ground, becauſe he could know no more of the Company's orders, than their ruling ſervants were pleaſed to intruſt him with; who moſt probably were themſelves parties concerned.

after detecting him in ſuch conduct, that we ſhould any longer conſider him as a proper object of that full confidence hitherto repoſed in him.—We have in this tranſaction the plaineſt proof of his ſecretly counteracting our poſitive commands: and we muſt conclude, that he will not ſcruple to repeat the ſame practices whenever ſelf-intereſt and a favourable opportunity concur for that purpoſe.

XV. The diminution of the duties on ſalt is ſo very conſiderable, that we cannot but expreſs our aſtoniſhment at your declared ignorance of the cauſe thereof; and although the reſult of your examination into the conduct of the Fowzdar of *Hoogly* may, in ſome degree, enable you to aſſign reaſons for the great loſs ſuſtained by the Company on this account, yet we cannot but be of opinion, that the perwânahs granted by *Mahommed Reza Khawn* for a monopoly, have ſo powerfully operated in reducing the revenue ariſing from ſalt, as to render it neceſſary for you to turn your inquiries to that quarter.—The caſe is plain, and the deduction by no means forced. How it could be deemed ſo little worthy your notice, we are at a loſs to conceive, or how you could advert to the fact of ſalt being monopolized, under the expreſs authority of *Mahommed Reza Khawn*, and not be aware of the conſequence, namely, that he having preſumed to tranſgreſs the Company's commands, would alſo avail himſelf of his ſtation, and ſcreen his agents from paying duties, or compel them to compound with him for the ſame, to the damage of the Company.

XVI. Solicitous as we are that the inland-trade in ſalt, beetle-nut, and tobacco ſhould be ſecured from the evils which would attend a monopoly of thoſe articles, were the ſame carried on either by *Europeans* or natives, we cannot but be pleaſed to find, that our intentions in this reſpect (communicated in our orders *per Lord Mansfield*) have been publiſhed by you. And as the inſtructions we tranſmitted to our Commiſſioners will convince you how much we have at heart the abſolute freedom of this trade (ſubject only to ſuch duties as we are aſſured will be ſo far from diſtreſſing the inhabitants, that they will be ſenſible of the ſuperior benefits we are anxious they ſhould enjoy under the influence of our Government) we therefore deem it unneceſſary to repeat our orders on this ſubject. But we cannot forbear expreſſing our reſolution, not to ſuffer the leaſt deviation from them. And ſhould you find that any of our ſervants, or others under our protection, ſhall have counteracted our intentions in reſpect to the general freedom of trade, you are forthwith to diſmiſs them the Company's ſervice, or withdraw our protection from ſuch *Europeans* as are not in our ſervice. At the ſame time, we enjoin you to be attentive to the conduct of the natives concerned in ſuch trade; and to uſe every means in your power to ſuppreſs all combinations and undue practices, tending to enhance the prices of the ſeveral articles thereof.

XVII. As ſalt is ſo important an object of the inland-trade, we are highly diſpleaſed at your having neglected to give us a regular annual account of the quantity made throughout the provinces, and the places where the ſame has been landed, conformable to our orders of the 20th *November* 1767.—This, therefore, we expect you to do in future. And we further require you

to

to tranſmit to us ſuch an account for the ſeveral years which have paſſed ſince we ſignified our pleaſure in this reſpect, that we may be enabled to judge what duties may be levied on that article, without oppreſſing thoſe whom it is our aim, as well as deſire to relieve.

XVIII. Notwithſtanding we obſerve, that *Mahommed Reza Khawn* has complained of a monopoly of rice being carried on by other perſons, we have received information, that he himſelf, in the very height of the famine, has been guilty of great oppreſſions; that he has been guilty of ſtopping the merchants boats, loaded with rice and other proviſions, intended for the ſupply of *Murſhedabad*, and has forcibly compelled the owners to ſell their rice to him at a price ſo cheap as from 25 to 30 ſeers *per* rupee, and reſold it afterwards at the rate of 3 or 4 ſeers *per* rupee, and all other eatables in proportion; and that, although it is affirmed this conduct of *Mahommed Reza Khawn* has operated in the *deſtruction of many thouſands of people*, yet it has been overlooked by thoſe in power, who ought to have prevented him from acting in a manner ſo inhuman, and ſo very unworthy the ſtation which he fills, as Naib-Dewan of the province of *Bengal*.

XIX. We have repeatedly directed you to inquire into the very large balances ſaid to be due from *Mahommed Reza Khawn*, on account of the *Dacca* revenues; and, upon the whole, nothing of conſequence has been produced by our frequent orders on this ſubject. But after ſuch a diſcovery of flagrant duplicity in *Mahommed Reza Khawn*, we cannot perſuade ourſelves, that his bare aſſertion of having accounted for all the money collected, ought to have the leaſt credit with us. The unadjuſted balances amount to a very large ſum; and we are determined, that either he ſhall prove to us, that he did not collect the whole revenues, and what part was remitted, and to whom all abatements were ſpecifically made, or refund, to the Sircar, all the balances due from the Chuclah of *Dacca*, during the time he rented the revenues of that diſtrict.

XX. When we expected that the influence and protection of the Company would have had ſuch happy effects throughout the provinces of *Bengal*, as would inſure to us a conſiderable increaſe in the revenues of the Dewannee, we cannot but be deeply affected to ſee ourſelves diſappointed in that reaſonable expectation: and to experience ſuch a reverſe, as now appears by the great diminution of thoſe revenues, particularly in the province of *Bahar*. Indeed, when we turn our view to the flouriſhing ſtate of *Burdwan*, and the increaſing revenue of that province under the immediate inſpection of our ſervants, we cannot but conclude that the diminution of the Dewannee-revenues muſt have been owing to the miſconduct of thoſe who have had the ſuperintendency of the collections.

XXI. But as we have further reaſons to ſuſpect, that large ſums have, by violent and oppreſſive means, been actually collected by *Mahommed Reza Khawn*, on account of the Dewannee-revenues, great part of which he has appropriated to his own uſe, or diſtributed among the creatures of his power, and the inſtruments of his oppreſſions, we ſhould not think ourſelves juſtified to the Company, or the Public, were we to leave to him in future the management

nagement of the Dewannee-collections; and as the transferring the like truſt to any other Miniſter could yield us little proſpect of reaping any benefit from the change, we are neceſſitated to ſeek, by other means, the full advantage we have to expect from the grant of the Dewannee. It is therefore our determination to ſtand forth as Dewan, and by the agency of the Company's ſervants, to take upon ourſelves the entire care and management of the revenues. In confidence, therefore, of your abilities to plan and execute this important work, we hereby authorize and require you to diveſt *Mahommed Reza Khawn* and every perſon employed by, or in conjunction with him, or acting under his influence, of any farther charge, or direction in the buſineſs of the collections; and we truſt that, in the office of Dewan, you will adopt ſuch regulations, and purſue ſuch meaſures, as ſhall at once inſure to us every poſſible advantage, and free the ryots from the oppreſſion of zemindars and petty tyrants, under which they may have been ſuffered to remain, from the intereſted views of thoſe whoſe influence and authority ſhould have been exerted for their relief and protection.

XXII. From the grounds we have to ſuſpect that *Mahommed Reza Khawn* has abuſed the truſt repoſed in him, and been guilty of many acts of violence and injuſtice towards his countrymen, we deem inſufficient the depriving him of a ſtation which may be made ſubſervient to the moſt corrupt purpoſes. It is therefore our pleaſure and command, that you enter into a minute inveſtigation, not only of the courſes to which the decreaſe of revenue may be aſcribed, but alſo into *Mahommed Reza Khawn*'s general conduct, during the time the Dewannee-revenues have been under his charge. And as the ſeveral complaints and accuſations, already noticed to you, are of a nature too ſerious to be ſuffered to paſs over without the moſt rigid inquiry, we have directed our Preſident to order him to repair to *Calcutta*, there to anſwer to the facts which ſhall be alleged againſt him, both in reſpect to his public adminiſtration and private conduct. And while we enjoin you to purſue your reſearches with unremitting care and attention, we expect you to obtain, not only a juſt and adequate reſtitution of all ſums which may have been with-held from the Sircar, or the Company, either by embezzlement or colluſion, but alſo the redreſs of ſuch injuries as individuals may have ſuſtained, by the exerciſe of his power or the effects of his avarice.

XXIII. As ſuch appearances of corrupt practices in the adminiſtration of *Mahommed Reza Khawn* leave us room to apprehend, that he may have been equally unfaithful in the diſcharge of the truſt he held under the Nabob, we farther direct, that you make a full and ſtrict inquiry concerning the application of the large ſums which have paſſed through his hands, on account of the annual ſtipends paid to ſucceſſive Nabobs, in conſequence of the treaty of 1765, for the maintenance of their family and the charge of ſeapoys for the ſupport of their dignity; and if it ſhall appear that any part thereof has not been duly accounted for by him, we require you to demand and receive, *for the benefit of the* SIRCAR, the amount of all ſuch ſums as he may have withheld, or applied to his own ſeparate uſe.

XXIV. Though we have not a doubt, but that by the exertion of your abilities, and the care and aſſiduity of our ſervants in the ſuperintendency of the revenues,

revenues, the collections will be conducted with more advantage to the Company, and eaſe to the natives, than by means of a Naib-Dewan, we are fully ſenſible of the *expediency* of ſupporting ſome *oſtenſible miniſter* in the Company's intereſt at the *Nabob's Court*, to tranſact the political affairs of THE SIRCAR, and interpoſe *between the Company and the ſubjects of any* European *power*, in all caſes wherein they may thwart our intereſt, or encroach on our authority. And as *Mahommed Reza Khawn* can no longer be conſidered by us as one to whom ſuch a power can *ſafely be committed, we truſt to your local knowledge the ſelection of ſome perſon, well qualified for the affairs of Government, and of whoſe attachment to the Company you ſhall be well aſſured. Such perſon you will recommend to the Nabob, to ſucceed *Mahommed Reza*, as Miniſter of the Government, and *guardian of the Nabob's minority*. And we perſuade ourſelves that *the Nabob will pay ſuch regard to your recommendation*, as to inveſt him with the neceſſary power and authority.

XXV. As the advantages which the Company may receive from the appointment of ſuch miniſter will depend on his readineſs to promote our views, and advance our intereſt, we are willing to allow him ſo liberal a gratification as may excite his zeal, and inſure his attachment to the Company. We therefore impower you to grant to the perſon whom you ſhall think worthy this truſt, an annual † allowance not exceeding *three lacks of rupees*; which we conſider, not only as a munificent reward for any ſervices he ſhall render the Company, but ſufficient to enable him to ſupport his ſtation with ſuitable rank and dignity. And here we muſt add, that in the choice you ſhall make of a perſon to be the active miniſter of the Nabob's government, we hope and truſt that you will ſhew yourſelves worthy of the confidence we have placed in you, by being actuated therein by no other motives than thoſe of the public good, and the ſafety and intereſt of the Company.

XXVI. As the diſburſements of the ſums allotted to the Nabob, for the maintenance of his houſehold and family, and the ſupport of his dignity, will paſs through the hands of the miniſter who ſhall be ſelected by you, conformable to our preceding orders, we expect, that you will require ſuch miniſter to deliver annually to your board, a regular and exact account of the application of the ſeveral ſums paid by the Company to the Nabob. This you will ſtrictly examine: and we truſt, that you will not ſuffer any part of the Nabob's ſtipend to be appropriated to the miniſter's own uſe, or waſted among the unneceſſary dependants of the court: but that the whole amount be applied to the purpoſes for which it was aſſigned by us.

* Compare this account of *Mahommed Reza Khawn* with that given in the XXIſt and XXIId Paragraphs of the Directors letters in Pages 179 and 188.

† By the agreement made with *Najim al Dowlah*, by Mr. *Sykes* in *July* 1765, that Nabob's allowance was ſettled at 5,386,131 rupees *per annum*. In Page 255, it hath been ſhewn that by the expreſs orders of the Directors, the annual ſtipend for the Nabob *Mobareck al Dowlah*, who ſucceeded *Seyf al Dowlah*, was reduced to ſixteen lacks, and that *Mahommed Reza Khawn*'s allowance was at the ſame time alſo reduced from nine to five lacks *per annum*. The allowance for the ſucceeding Miniſter is here brought down to three lacks. In a note, p. 20, Mr. *Verelſt* ſays, "*the Nabob's allowance was not reduced on the* "*death of* Seyf al Dowlah, *as aſſerted by Mr.* Bolts." If the candid Reader will pleaſe to compare what the Author of *Conſiderations, &c.* hath publiſhed, Page 47, with the above-proved facts, he will be enabled to judge of the validity of Mr. *Verelſt*'s aſſertion.

XLIII. While we were in full expectation of reaping all the advantages we had in proſpect from the acquiſition of the Dewannee-revenues, and which were become the more eſſential to us from our compact with the public for a participation of thoſe revenues, how greatly muſt we be alarmed at ſeeing the Dewannee-collections ſcarce anſwering any other purpoſe than defraying the civil and military charges of our Preſidency of *Bengal*. Indeed, nothing but the moſt unhappy experience could have led us to ſuppoſe, that the amount of thoſe revenues would have not been ſufficient both for the charges of your Preſidency and ſupplying us with annual inveſtments equal to our engagements with the public, the expectations of the proprietors, the proviſion of exports, and every other demand to which the Company is ſubjected. But what muſt be our ſurprize, to find that the collective amount of our revenues in *Bengal* are ſo far from yielding us returns adequate to our indiſpenſible occaſions, that a conſiderable part of your conſignments of the preſent year has been purchaſed by *intereſt notes given for the amount*, notwithſtanding you had *received into your treaſury, for draughts on the Court of Directors, ſums equal to the whole of thoſe conſignments.*

XLIV. Whatever may have been the cauſes which have brought on ſuch effects, the conſequences are equally alarming to us: and as we learn, from your late advices, that the decreaſe of revenues and the increaſe of charges will not permit us to hope a ſpeedy remedy for the evils with which we are threatened, we cannot but turn our view to the commiſſion which we have permitted to be drawn on your net territorial revenues. And ſhould we continue to experience, that your reſources are inadequate to the expectations we had formed of them, we ſhall find ourſelves under a neceſſity to withhold from our ſervants thoſe gratuitous rewards which we were induced to grant them, in the full and reaſonable hope that their care and attention would inſure to the Company all the advantages expected from the poſſeſſion of the Dewannee.

N. B. The Court of Directors for the year 1771 conſiſted of the following gentlemen:

John Purling, Eſq; Chairman,
George Dudley, Eſq; Deputy,

Richard Boſanquet, Eſq;	*John Michie*,
Sir *James Cockburn*, Bart.	*Frederick Pigou*,
George Cuming,	*Thomas Rous*,
Edward Holden Cruttenden,	*John Roberts*,
Peter Du Cane Jun.	*Henry Savage*,
Henry Fletcher,	*Joſhua Smith*,
Robert Gregory,	*Laurence Sulivan*,
John Harriſon,	*Harry Verelſt*,
Joſeph Hurlock,	*Edward Wheler*,
William James,	*Daniel Wier*, and
John Manſhip,	*John Woodhouſe*, Eſquires.

NUM. LIII.

*COPY of the * Proceedings of the Preſident and Council at* Calcutta, *at Conſultations held the 3d and 7th of* January 1772, *relative to a Charge made by Mr.* Alexander Jephſon, *againſt Mr.* Cornelius Goodwin, *late Mayor of* Calcutta, *as reported to the Houſe of Commons, by the Committee of Secrecy, on the 6th of May* 1773.

Fort William, 3d January 1772.

At a Conſultation, preſent,

The Honourable *John Cartier*, Eſq; Preſident,
Samuel Middleton,
William Alderſey,
Philip Milner Dacres, and
Thomas Lane, Eſquires,
Meſſrs. *Reed* and *Jekyll* abſent.

THE board being met, according to appointment, to examine into the charge made againſt Mr. *Cornelius Goodwin*, by Mr. *Jephſon*, in his memorial to the honourable the Court of Directors; and the ſeveral perſons ſummoned being in waiting,

Mr. *Levett*, one of the aldermen, is called in, and interrogated as follows:

Did you hear, or were you informed, during the courſe of Mr. *Jephſon*'s ſuit, that Mr. *Cornelius Goodwin*, as Mayor of the ſaid Court, on a repreſentation being made by Mr. *Jephſon*, or his attorney, that the proceedings of the Court were contrary to the laws of *England*, did reply, that they had nothing to do with the laws of *England* there; that the laws of *England* were never made for them: and did declare, that he would not ſo much as hear the laws of *England* named, while he ſat upon that bench; or did you hear him utter words to that effect?

In reply to which Mr. *Levett* declares, that to the beſt of his remembrance, he never heard ſuch words, or any words to that purport, uttered. He further begs leave to obſerve,

" That he is under the greateſt concern to find, that the honourable " board ſhould judge it neceſſary, in purſuance of the orders of the honour- " able Court of Directors, to put a queſtion to him, to which he cannot " anſwer as an unconcerned evidence; becauſe had he heard an alderman " upon the bench, or out of court, publicly avow ſentiments ſo unworthy " his character and ſtation, it would have been incumbent upon him to have

* See reports of the Houſe of Commons, vol. IV. page 343, &c.

" accuſed him before the honourable board; that he regarded a neglect of " this duty as ſo high an offence and miſdemeanor towards the public, as " to lay a juſt foundation for a charge and arraignment before the honourable " board; that therefore his evidence being ſo intereſted in the queſtion, " could have little weight: whilſt under the ſanction of ſuch a precedent, " an alderman might hereafter be called upon and examined, in evidence, " to matters tending to his own accuſation, by which the principles of law " and juſtice would be violated. That the proceedings of the Mayor's " Court were always public, and the remedy and mode of accuſation againſt " an alderman preciſely ſet forth by the charter; that therefore the direct " application to us, by one aggrieved, and having any miſdemeanor where- " with to charge an alderman, was well known; nor could ſuch an accuſer " be at any loſs to find evidence to ſupport his charge, without recourſe to " the aldermen themſelves, who, by a tacit approbation, would become " equally criminal.

" That he was informed, that he was not ſummoned as an alderman of " the court; yet the queſtion was of ſuch a nature, that he finds a great " difficulty to ſeparate that character from the matter it contained; however, " that the reſpect due to the judgment, and the confidence in the upright- " neſs of the honourable board, readily inclined him to give the court the " fulleſt information; but that he hoped, if, upon a re-conſideration, there " appeared to them any irregularity, or undue and unauthorized exerciſe of " power and authority, in their preſent proceedings, that they would not be " drawn into precedent, either to the prejudice of the judges of the court, " or of the juriſdiction thereof."

Mr. *Levett* withdraws, and Mr. *Killican*, one of the aldermen, is called in; and the above queſtion put to him, he declares,——That he was on the bench *moſt part* of the time the proceedings againſt Mr. *Jephſon* were before the Mayor's Court, and that he never heard any ſuch expreſſions uttered by Mr. *Goodwin*; and adds, that, had he made uſe of any ſuch words, he ſhould have deemed it his duty to have taken notice of it.

Mr. *Killican* having withdrawn, and Mr. *Cator*, one of the aldermen, called in, the above queſtion is put to him; to which he replies:

" *I have heard Mr.* Goodwin, *on the bench, make uſe of ſuch words, or* " *words to that effect*; but I cannot charge my memory with the time."

Queſtion by the board. Did you take no notice of it at the time?

Anſwer. I thought it was a very extraordinary expreſſion, but I did not take any farther notice of it.

Mr. *Cator* withdraws; and Mr. *Morris*, one of the attornies of the Mayor's Court, being called in, is interrogated as follows:

Queſtion. Was you attorney for Mr. *Jephſon*, or the oppoſite party, in 1768?

Anſwer. I was attorney for many of the plaintiffs againſt *Jephſon*, and am ſo ſtill.

Queſtion. Did you regularly attend the court during that time?

Anſwer. I do not remember miſſing any one time.

The

The ſame queſtion *verbatim* being then put to Mr. *Morris*, as to the other perſons before examined, he replies, "I do not recollect his uſing ſuch words. "I never heard ſuch an expreſſion made uſe of by any of the gentlemen."

Queſtion. Nor any words tending to that purport?

Anſwer. No, to the beſt of my remembrance.

Mr. *Morris* withdrawing, Mr. *Droz*, who was Sheriff in the beginning of 1768, is called in.

Queſtion. Did you hold the poſt of Sheriff in 1768?

Anſwer. Part of it.

Queſtion. Were you Sheriff during *Jephſon*'s ſuit in the Mayor's Court?

Anſwer. I was.

Queſtion. Did you regularly attend the Court?

Anſwer. Not regularly, as my other avocations would not permit me to do it.

The above queſtion being then put to him, he replies, "I never heard "Mr. *Goodwin* uſe ſuch expreſſions, nor did I ever hear any perſon elſe de- "clare, that Mr. *Goodwin* had made uſe of ſuch an expreſſion."

Mr. *Droz* withdraws.

Meſſrs. *Reed* and *Jekyll*, who were on the bench, as aldermen, during part of the proceedings againſt *Jephſon*, being abſent,

Agreed, That they be addreſſed by the Secretary in the following manner:

To *John Reed*, Eſquire,
To *Joſeph Jekyll*, Eſquire,

SIR,

The honourable the Preſident and Council being aſſembled, to inquire into the truth of the accuſation laid againſt Mr. *Cornelius Goodwin*, by Mr. *Alexander Jephſon*, in his memorial to the honourable the Court of Directors; and obſerving that your name is in the liſt of thoſe aldermen who ſat on the bench ſome one of thoſe times, when the proceedings againſt Mr. *Jephſon* were brought before the Mayor's Court, they direct me to ſend you the following queſtion, relative to the knowledge you may have of the allegation againſt Mr. *Goodwin*, to which they requeſt the favour of an anſwer.

Whether you heard, or were informed, during the courſe of Mr. *Jephſon*'s ſuit, that Mr. *Cornelius Goodwin*, as the Mayor of the ſaid Court, on a repreſentation being made by Mr. *Jephſon*, or his attorney, that the proceedings of the Court were contrary to the laws of *England*, did reply, "That "they had nothing to do with the laws of *England* there; that the laws of "*England* were never made for them; and did declare, That he would not "ſo much as hear the laws of *England* named while he ſat upon that bench;" or words to that effect? I am, *&c.*

Reſolved, We defer coming to a final determination on this matter, until we receive Meſſrs. *Reed*'s and *Jekyll*'s replies.

Fort

Fort William, 7th January 1772.

At a Conſultation, preſent,

The Honourable *John Cartier*, Eſq; Preſident,
Samuel Middleton,
William Alderſey,
Philip Milner Dacres, and
Thomas Lane, Eſquires,
Meſſrs. *Reed* and *Jekyll* abſent.

Meſſrs. *Reed* and *Jekyll* ſend in the two following letters, in reply to that written by our Secretary the 3d inſtant.

To the Honourable *John Cartier*, Eſq; Preſident and Governor, *&c.* Council at *Fort William*.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

In a letter from your Secretary, dated the 3d inſtant, I have received a queſtion relative to the knowlege I may have of certain words ſaid to have been ſpoken by Mr. *Cornelius Goodwin*, as Mayor, during the courſe of Mr. *Jephſon*'s ſuit in the Mayor's Court of *Calcutta*, to which your honour, *&c.* gentlemen, deſire I will reply.

At ſo great a diſtance of time from my being an alderman of the Mayor's Court, I cannot charge my memory with any expreſs words ſpoken by the then Mayor at any particular time; to the beſt of my remembrance I never heard Mr. *Goodwin* ſpeak ſuch words as are contained in Mr. *Jephſon*'s accuſation, or words to that effect; nor ever was informed that he had ſpoken ſuch words. When an alderman of the Mayor's Court, I do remember to have heard Mr. *Goodwin* aſſert, that the ſaid Court was rather a Court of equity than of the common law, or words to that effect; though I never conſidered ſuch expreſſion of Mr. *Goodwin*'s as meaning, or being intended, to pervert the courſe of juſtice, but merely as his ſentiments on the mode of proceeding in the Mayor's Court, and of the powers of its judges.

Fort William,
6th Jan. 1772.

I am, *&c.*
(Signed) JOHN REED.

To the Honourable *John Cartier*, Eſq; Preſident and Governor, *&c.* Council of *Fort William*.

Gentlemen,

I have received a letter from your Secretary, on the ſubject of an accuſation againſt Mr. *Goodwin* when Mayor of the town of *Calcutta*, deſiring my anſwer to the queſtion, "Whether I heard, or was informed, during the "courſe of Mr. *Jephſon*'s ſuit, that Mr. *Cornelius Goodwin*, as Mayor of the "ſaid

" ſaid Court, on a repreſentation being made by Mr. *Jephſon*, or his attor-
" ney, that the proceedings of the Court were contrary to the laws of
" *England*, did reply, That they had nothing to do with the laws of *England*
" there; that the laws of *England* were never made for them; and did de-
" clare, That he would not ſo much as hear the laws of *England* named
" whilſt he ſat upon that bench;" or words to that effect. To which, in reply, I muſt obſerve, though I do not recollect the ſpeech which Mr. *Goodwin* is charged with to have been made by him, I think it very likely he, or any other alderman on the bench, who, as they are not ſuppoſed to be fully verſed in all particular matters of law, might, on an obſervation from an attorney of the Court, that the then diſcuſſing point was not conformable to the rules of law, have remarked, that that Court was not to be conſidered as a Court of law, and that their judgment ſhould more properly, therefore, be directed by the rules of equity; and this I apprehend to have been the ſcope of what paſſed. If any obſervation of that kind was made, and has given an opening of perverting the meaning to a deſign, that could ſurely never be intended by a gentleman who had ſerved ſo many years here, and at *Madraſs*, in both places as alderman and mayor; nor do I apprehend ſuch would have paſſed the more particular notice of the Court then ſitting.

Calcutta, I am, *&c.*
7th Jan. 1772. (Signed) JOSEPH JEKYLL.

Mr. *Cornelius Goodwin* alſo ſends in the following Addreſs to the Board.

To the Honourable *John Cartier*, Eſq; Preſident, *&c.* Council.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

I HAVE with great ſurprize received, from your Secretary, an extract of a memorial of *Alexander Jephſon*, late of *Calcutta*, to the honourable the Court of Directors, wherein I am accuſed of having frequently declared, that he, the ſaid *Alexander Jephſon*, ſhould be detained in the country; and that when his attorney repreſented to the Court, the illegality of the proceedings againſt him, and that they were not agreeable to the laws of *England*, I declared, That the Mayor's Court had nothing to do with the laws of *England*, and that the laws of *England* were never made for them; and that I would not ſo much as hear the laws of *England* named while I ſat upon that bench.

This is an accuſation dictated by the falſhood and malice of the ſaid *Jephſon* and his attorney; the one for being obliged, not by me particularly, but by the voice of a full Court, to give ſecurity to his creditors before he left the place, for the payment of many large demands made upon him, and which appeared to be juſtly due; the other of his attorney, Mr. *Whittall*, a perſon of a notorious bad character; who, having been juſtly diſmiſſed the Court for iniquitous practices, has maliciouſly publiſhed, as I ſuppoſe, this accuſation through revenge.

You, gentlemen, are judges, and know well, that the iſſuing of writs, or any other proceſs of the Mayor's Court, does not reſt in the breaſt of the Mayor,

Mayor, or any other ſingle member of the Court, but are iſſued by order of a Court, in judgment ſitting, which cannot conſiſt of leſs than three members; except in the caſe of an affidavit being made by a creditor, that the debtor is about to depart the juriſdiction of the Court; when the Mayor may order a ſummons, returnable immediately, and a warrant therewith, to iſſue between the days of the ſitting of the Court. But in the proceeding complained of by Mr. *Jephſon*, no writs or orders were iſſued, but by orders of very full Courts; as I would not undertake to do any thing without the opinion and advice of as many of the members as I could poſſibly get to meet.

As to the words charged to be ſpoken by me upon the bench, I declare it to be falſe; and that I could never make uſe of expreſſions ſo inconſiſtent with my knowledge and ſentiments, as well as my duty, both as a magiſtrate and ſubject of *Great Britain*; beſides, if ſuch an expreſſion had been made uſe of by me upon the bench, it would have been incumbent on the members ſitting with me, to have taken particular notice of it.

I hope the laws of *England* will ever be the law of *Britiſh* ſubjects, whatever part of the world a colony of them may be in; and I requeſt you will pleaſe to be referred to any of the members or attornies of the Mayor's Court, whether they have ever heard me make any ſuch declaration as I am accuſed of.

If any further ſatisfaction upon this occaſion, than what is herein ſet forth, may be deemed neceſſary, I am ready to attend your honours; and remain with the utmoſt reſpect, *&c.*

(Signed) CORNELIUS GOODWIN.

Calcutta, 3d January 1772.

The board taking into ſerious conſideration the different INFORMATIONS given in at their laſt meeting, with thoſe now before them, from Meſſrs. *Reed* and *Jekyll*, as likewiſe Mr. *Goodwin*'s ADDRESS, are of opinion, that the foundation for the charge againſt that gentleman is not ſupported with the neceſſary proofs; that though Mr. *Cator*'s information is very poſitive, Mr. *Goodwin* has expreſſed the words ſet forth in Mr. *Jephſon*'s memorial to the honourable Company, or words to that effect; yet *they are inclined to believe* Mr. *Goodwin*'s meaning, as well as his expreſſions, *muſt have been miſunderſtood by Mr.* Cator; and to confirm them in that opinion, the ſentiments of Mr. *Reed* and *Jekyll*, as to what they know of Mr. *Goodwin*'s conduct, and the idea he entertains of his duty as an alderman of the Mayor's Court, ſeems a convincing proof, that he could never have expreſſed himſelf in a manner ſo diſreſpectful to the excellent laws of his country. They muſt further remark, that Mr. *Goodwin* has, for a long ſeries of years, been on the bench, either as Mayor or alderman of the Mayor's Court, both at *Madraſs* and *Bengal*; and they conceive, no perſons entertaining notions of ſo extraordinary a nature, could have acted ſo long in that capacity, without making himſelf *notorious and offenſive to government*. Inſtead of which, the board, in juſtice to Mr. *Goodwin*, muſt remark, they have always conſidered him as an active and impartial judge in the performance of his duty, and has

ever

ever been ready to render juſtice to the utmoſt of his power. That it has ever been held as an allowed fact, that the Mayor's Court at *Calcutta*, as eſtabliſhed by the charter, is a Court of equity, and not of law; and Mr. *Goodwin* avowing ſuch his opinion of its inſtitution, has been perverted, by artful and bad men, to an abſolute defiance to the laws of his country; whereas no individual has given more ready obedience to them, or been more * *obedient to government in general.*

The board cannot diſmiſs this ſubject, without *remarking on the information* given in by Mr. *Cator*; and are extremely ſurprized, that Mr. *Cator* ſhould have heard expreſſions made by Mr. *Goodwin*, of the nature of thoſe he is charged with in Mr. *Jephſon*'s memorial, without having publicly diſavowed the ſame, or rebuking Mr. *Goodwin* for expreſſing ſuch.——This, either as an alderman of the Mayor's Court, or a *Britiſh* ſubject, it was moſt undoubtedly his duty to do, or to have lodged a complaint againſt Mr. *Goodwin* before the board, that an affair of ſo ſerious a nature might be fully inquired into; that it would appear from this, that Mr. *Cator* has either neglected his duty as alderman of the Mayor's Court, or tacitly approved of Mr. *Goodwin*'s ſentiments, in the light he underſtood them in.

Reſolved, therefore, that the Secretary be directed to ſignify the opinion of this board on the nature of his information; and that he likewiſe inform Mr. *Goodwin*, that the board having as minutely as poſſible inquired into the charge alledged againſt him, *find no reaſon* to conſider him in any degree culpable.

NUM. LIV.

COPY of a Memorial from Mr. Richard Whittall *to the Committee of Secrecy of the Honourable Houſe of Commons, in Vindication of his Character, as affected by the Proceedings of the Governor and Council at* Calcutta *of the 3d and 7th of* January 1772; *delivered by Mr.* Whittall *on the 17th* June 1773, *to the Honourable Mr. Alderman* Harley, *Chairman of the ſaid Secret Committee of the Houſe of Commons.*

To the Honourable Committee of Secrecy, appointed by the Honourable the Commons of *Great Britain*, to inquire into the State of the *Eaſt India* Company.

GENTLEMEN,

HAVING been adviſed, that, in your ſeventh report to the Houſe, it appears, That at conſultations held at *Fort William*, by the Preſident and Council, the 3d and 7th of *January* 1772, an inquiry had been made

* Witneſs the putting a ſtop to the public proceedings of juſtice, in complaiſance to a private letter from the Governor. Vide Conſiderations, &c. page 91.

into that part of the charge exhibited by Mr. *Jephſon*, in his memorial to the Court of Directors, againſt Mr. *Goodwin*, concerning his frequently declaring, when Mayor, in the courſe of the proceedings had againſt Mr. *Jephſon* and his wife, who was executrix of *Peter Gallopine*, deceaſed, "*That they had* "*nothing to do with the laws of* England *there*; *that the laws of* England "*were never made for them*; *and that he would not hear them named while* "*he ſat on that bench.*" That the Preſident and Council examined Meſſrs. *Levett*, *Killican*, and *Cator*, three of the aldermen of the Court, and who had been preſent at the proceedings in which theſe words were alledged to be ſpoken; alſo Mr. *Morris*, an attorney of the Mayor's Court, who had been concerned in ſome proceedings againſt Mr. *Jephſon*; that Mr. *Cator* ſaid, "That he had heard Mr. *Goodwin* on the bench make uſe of ſuch words, or "words to that effect; but could not charge his memory with the time." That the other witneſſes ſeverally denied that they had, at any time, heard Mr. *Goodwin* uſe ſuch words; but that they heard him declare, that the Mayor's Court was not a Court of law, but of equity. That Meſſrs. *Reed* and *Jekyll*, who had been alſo upon the bench as aldermen during part of the proceedings, did, by letter (on account of their abſence from *Calcutta*) to the Preſident and Council, give their teſtimony in like manner, in exculpation of Mr. *Goodwin*; and, upon this evidence, the board reſolved, "That "they *found no reaſon* to conſider Mr. *Goodwin* in any degree culpable, and "directed their Secretary to ſignify this reſolution to him;" which charge againſt Mr. *Goodwin* was in ſubſtance, or tending to the ſame purport, as that given by me, in evidence, before your honours. And your honours having been pleaſed, in an appendix to your ſaid report, to inſert the whole of the proceedings had at the ſaid conſultations at *Fort William*, together with an addreſs to the board from Mr. *Goodwin*, in which letter Mr. *Goodwin* has thought proper to vilify me, as a perſon of a notorious bad character; alledging, as a proof thereof, that I had been diſmiſſed the Mayor's Court: a charge ſo baſe and groundleſs, and of ſuch concern to my honour, I could not paſs over in ſilence, eſpecially as the ſame appears upon your proceedings uncontroverted.

I therefore, with ſubmiſſion to your honours, beg leave to remark, on the proceedings had at the ſaid conſultations at *Fort William*, that it does not appear any regular charge was ever exhibited againſt Mr. *Goodwin* to the Preſident and Council by any perſon whatever, then preſent to ſupport the ſame; or that the accuſed ever once appeared before the ſaid Preſident and Council on the occaſion, to be perſonally examined. That no proof, or witneſſes were produced before, or intimation given, to the Preſident and Council of the witneſſes who could legally prove the charge againſt Mr. *Goodwin*, by any perſon whatever. That the Preſident and Council thought proper to examine only three of the aldermen of the Court, and one Mr. *Morris*, an attorney thereof (the very men who had been moſt active in the oppreſſive proceedings againſt Mr. *Jephſon*, and who, except Mr. *Cator*, had, together with Mr. *Goodwin*, conſpired to diſmiſs me from acting as an attorney in the Mayor's Court) yet they did not think fit to ſummons the reſt of the aldermen, and the attornies, or the regiſter, or his deputy of the ſaid Court;

Court; ſeveral of whom could, if called upon, fully prove the charge againſt Mr. *Goodwin* to be true, which the ſaid Preſident and Council ought to have done; and the rather, as it is not alledged, in the memorial of Mr. *Jephſon*, that the words ſpoken by Mr. *Goodwin*, on which the charge againſt him is grounded, were uttered in preſence of any of the witneſſes who were ſo produced before them, on behalf of Mr. *Goodwin*; but inſtead of which, THEY PROCEEDED TO TRIAL WITHOUT ANY PROSECUTOR being preſent, or ſummoned to attend; or any charge in writing being properly exhibited, whereon the Preſident and Council could only legally proceed, AND WITHOUT EXAMINING ANY WITNESS UPON OATH; and the inferences taken by the Preſident and Council appear, on the face of them, to be partially drawn, and have not the appearance of juſtice; as *they have thereby endeavoured to explain away the poſitive evidence of Mr. Alderman* Cator, *one of Mr.* Goodwin's *own witneſſes, who fully and clearly proved the charge againſt him.*

I further beg leave to obſerve to your honours, that it was highly unbecoming of the Preſident and Council, as a Court of judicature, *to admit of a letter from Mr.* Goodwin, *containing ſuch ſcandalous inſinuations on my character*, relating to my diſmiſſion from the Mayor's Court, before whom an appeal from ſuch diſmiſſion was to be heard; and the rather, as the Preſident and Council had received the ſentiments of the Court of Directors, together with the opinion of the Company's Council, regarding the ſame, as appears by your report. Such letter could only be wrote by Mr. *Goodwin* with a view of prejudicing me in the opinion of the Preſident and Council, with reſpect to my appeal; as the ſame could not in the leaſt tend to extenuate the offence alledged againſt him, in the memorial of Mr. *Jephſon*.

I further beg leave to lay before your honours a copy of the opinion of *John Dunning*, Eſq; on the ſubject of my diſmiſſion from the Mayor's Court; from which, as well as from the general * letter of the Court of Directors to the Preſident and Council, dated 3d *May* 1771, diſapproving of the proceedings of the Mayor's Court, it will appear how injuriouſly I have been treated.

MR. DUNNING'S Opinion.

Mr. *Whittall*, upon this ſtate of his caſe, appears to have been very hardly and injuriouſly treated. The order for diſmiſſing him was a groſs act of injuſtice; not merely becauſe neither of the facts charged upon him, as the grounds for his diſmiſſion, were proved, but as they were in truth both diſproved, by the very evidence referred to as the proof of them, the receipt or memorandum, ſigned by Mr. *Mactaggart*, of the 4th *June* 1768. Firſt, as to the ſuppoſed impoſition on Mr. *Droz*, the Sheriff, by a falſe pretence, that a decree had been actually obtained againſt him for the money due from the defendant in the original cauſe, whom he had ſuffered to go at large after having arreſted her. Though it is certain, that he was, in law, liable to the plaintiff's demand, in conſequence of his own miſconduct; and *Whittall* might very properly tell him ſo: it was impoſſible he could ſay, with any expectation of being believed, that a decree had been actually obtained, or that

* Reports, vol. IV. page 341.

Droz, if he had been told ſo, could believe it; for he who himſelf was an officer of the Court muſt know, that he had no notice of ſuch an action; and I ſuppoſe it is not the practice of the Court to make decrees againſt men, without giving them an opportunity of being heard in their defence. But further, the receipt, or memorandum referred to, mentions nothing of any decree, or ſuit againſt the Sheriff; on the contrary, it mentions the original cauſe as ſtill depending, and provides for putting an end to it, and nothing more: and it is not to be doubted, but that proviſion would have been extended to the cauſe againſt the Sheriff, if he had been made to underſtand that any ſuch had been commenced. Secondly, as to the ground, which is, that he had not withdrawn the ſuit, purſuant to his client's engagement, on the next court-day, it is obvious that taking the whole receipt or memorandum together, the withdrawing the ſuit as well as the delivering up the bond, were meant (as they ought) to depend upon the payment of the coſts; not to mention, that if it were otherwiſe, it would afford no ground of cenſure on Mr. *Whittall* or his client, ſince neither Mr. *Droz* or Mrs. *Morgan* had ſuſtained any injury by his not withdrawing the cauſe, no ſtep having been taken towards proſecuting it further. In this ſituation Mr. *Whittall*'s proper courſe to get himſelf re-inſtated, is to lay a full repreſentation of his caſe before the Court of Directors, who will probably refer it to their counſel; and, in that caſe, I have no doubt but they will be adviſed to reſtore him to an office of which he has been thus arbitrarily and groundleſly deprived. If the Directors ſhould refuſe to redreſs him, which I cannot ſuppoſe, it will then be time enough to conſider the other queſtions.

Lincoln's Inn, (Signed) J. DUNNING.
16th March 1771.

I hope, gentlemen, from what I have already ſaid, that I ſhall ſtand fully exculpated, in the opinion of your honours, from the ſcandalous reflections conveyed to your honours by the letter of Mr. *Goodwin*. There are many circumſtances that tend to aggravate the unwarrantable proceedings of Mr. *Goodwin*, and ſome other of the members of the Mayor's Court againſt me; ſuch as their refuſing to give me leave to ſue for my legal demands, or to take cognizance of any complaint exhibited before them by my attornies, in my abſence; in reſpect to which I have taken the opinion of ſeveral gentlemen learned in the law, who ſay, that I am without relief, until ſuch of the members of the Court as have acted in that arbitrary manner, return to *England*.

I further, with ſubmiſſion, beg leave to remark to your honours, that though the Preſident and Council on their conſultations, have thought proper to paſs ſome encomiums on Mr. *Goodwin*'s former conduct at *Madraſs* and *Bengal*, yet Mr. *Goodwin* has been declared, by the *Eaſt India* Company, to be unworthy of their ſervice, and was accordingly diſmiſſed therefrom at *Madraſs, and rendered for ever after incapable of holding any ſervice, or employment under the ſaid Company; though he is ſtill deemed, by the Preſident and Council*

Council at Calcutta, *a proper perſon to preſide as one of the judges of the Mayor's Court.* I have the honour to be,

With great reſpect,

GENTLEMEN,

London, 16*th June* 1773. (Signed) Your moſt humble ſervant, RICHARD WHITTALL.

On the 17th *June* 1773, I delivered the addreſs (of which the above is a copy) to Mr. Alderman Harley, chairman of the Secret Committee, who promiſed to lay the ſame before the Committee that day.

(Signed) R. W.

NUM. LV.

COPY of Obſervations made upon the Agreement between the Eaſt India *Company and the* Armenians, *in* 1688; *as drawn up by* Thomas Nuthall, *Eſq*; *Solicitor to the Company, and ſigned by their ſtanding Counſel,* Charles Sayer, *Eſq*; *on the* 14*th of* May 1772.

1ſt. IT is no treaty, or contract; the *Armenians* are not parties to it, conſequently not bound by it. It is nothing more than a ſet of orders, or regulations, iſſued by the old *Eaſt India* Company, for the purpoſe of encouraging the *Armenians* to employ the Company's ſhips in trade, under particular duties and freight, therein ſpecified.

2dly, It does not appear, from any of the *India* Company's records, that the *Armenians* ever acted under this grant, or ever claimed the privileges and immunities therein mentioned, from 1688, to this time; or ever conſigned to the Company their goods from *India* for the *Turkey* trade, or otherwiſe, as was the plain intention of the inſtrument.

3dly, But, admitting this to be an agreement binding on the old Company, and that there is evidence of its being put in execution, can it be inſiſted upon, that after the ſurrender of the old Company's charter and all their powers, the preſent *Eaſt India* Company, who derive their rights under a different charter, is concluded by it, and bound to perform, or acquieſce in it? It might as well be urged, that the bye-laws and reſolutions of the old Company were binding on the new Company; there is no act of parliament, or charter, that warrants any ſuch poſition.

Note, The principal articles of trade, particularized in the grant, after ſtating and directing the ſtipulated duties to be paid under the denomination of freight, or permiſſion, are declared to be free from all charges whatſoever. Raw-ſilk of *Perſia* is to pay twenty-one pounds *per* ton freight, free of all other charges, except two one-half *per cent.* towards demurrage of our ſhips; the

the duty of cuſtom in *England*, on this article alone, is ninety-three pounds, ſix ſhillings, and eight-pence *per* ton; ſo upon coffee, which was to pay ten pounds *per* ton, the duty of cuſtoms is actually thirty-three pounds, ten ſhillings, and three-pence; and it is obſervable, that the ſtipulated duties (under the denomination of permiſſion) on all ſorts of *China* and *Bengal* goods, are expreſly mentioned to exiſt during the Company's indulgence for thoſe kind of goods, and no longer.

Queen *Anne*'s acceptance of the old Company's charter, which recites Lord *Godolphin*'s award, is as follows:

Anne, by the Grace of God, of *Great Britain*, *France*, and *Ireland*, Queen, Defender of the Faith, *&c.* To all to whom theſe preſents ſhall come, greeting:

WHEREAS our right truſty and right well-beloved couſin and counſellor *Sidney* Earl of *Godolphin*, Lord High Treaſurer of *Great Britain*, did, by his award, under his hand and ſeal, bearing date the nine-and-twentieth day of *September* laſt paſt, before the date hereof, in purſuance of the act of parliament therein mentioned, amongſt ſeveral other matters and things therein contained, award, and finally determine, that the then Governor and Company of Merchants of *London* trading into the *Eaſt Indies*, ſhould, on or before the five-and-twentieth day of *March* 1709, in due form of law, by deed, or inſtrument in writing, under their common ſeal, inrolled in our High Court of Chancery, abſolutely ſurrender and yield up to us, our heirs and ſucceſſors, their corporation, or body-politick of the Governor and Company of Merchants of *London* trading into the *Eaſt Indies*, and all their charters, capacities, powers, and rights whatſoever for acting as, or continuing to be any longer a body-politick, or corporate, by virtue of any act of parliament, charter, or otherwiſe howſoever; and whereas the ſaid Governor and Company did, in purſuance of the ſaid award, and for the entire extinguiſhing of the corporation-capacity of the ſaid Governor and Company, by their deed-poll, bearing date the two-and-twentieth day of *March* laſt, and inrolled in our High Court of Chancery, grant, ſurrender, yield, and give up unto us, our heirs and ſucceſſors, their corporation, capacity, or body-politick, of Governor and Company of Merchants of *London* trading into the *Eaſt Indies*, and all their charters, capacities, powers, and rights whatſoever, for acting as, or continuing to be a body-politick, or corporate, by virtue of any act of parliament, charter, or otherwiſe howſoever. And alſo, all the right, title, intereſt, franchiſe, liberty, claim, or demand whatſoever, which they the ſaid Governor and Company had, or were any-ways intitled unto, to be a corporation, or body-politick, by the ſaid name of Governor and Company of Merchants of *London* trading into the *Eaſt Indies*; or any other name, or names, by virtue of the ſaid letters patents and charters, or any of them, or by force, or virtue of any other letters patents, act, or acts of parliament, deeds, or means whatſoever, as, by the ſaid award and ſurrender, relation unto them being reſpectively had, may more fully and at large appear. Now, therefore, KNOW YE, that for divers good cauſes and conſiderations, us hereunto eſpecially moving, We have accepted,

and

and do by theſe our letters patent accept of the ſaid ſurrender ſo to us made, as aforeſaid, and do hereby likewiſe approve and allow thereof. In witneſs whereof, we have cauſed theſe our letters to be made patents, witneſs ourſelf at *Weſtminſter*, the ſeventh day of *May*, in the eighth year of our reign. By writ of Privy Seal.

(Signed) COCKS.

Theſe obſervations are very good, and effectually put an end to all pretended treaties with the *Armenians*, in the year 1688.

May 14*th* 1772. (Signed) C. SAYER.

NUM. LVI.

COPY of a Letter from Mr. George Smith *to the Preſident and Council at* Fort St. George, *relative to the new Covenants. Dated the* 6*th of* March 1773.

To the Honourable *Alexander Wynch*, Eſq; Preſident and Governor, *&c.* Council of *Fort St. George.*

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

I HAVE received your Secretary's letter of the 23d *ultimo*, intimating to me, that by reaſon of my not having executed the covenants ſent to me on the 22d of *Auguſt* laſt, my reſidence in *India* is deemed by you inconvenient to the Company; and therefore you direct that, in conformity to my engagements already entered into with the Company, I do tranſport myſelf, family and effects, to *Great Britain*, within twelve months from the date of your letter; and, in the mean time, you lay me under a prohibition, or interdiction of trade and commerce in any manner whatever, otherwiſe than by collecting my outſtanding debts and effects, in order that I may have no plea, or pretence, to remain longer in *India* than the time you have been pleaſed to limit me to. Poſſeſſing the feelings natural to an honeſt mind, on finding myſelf thus publicly and undeſervedly cenſured and condemned, by ſo reſpectable a body as the Preſident and Council of *Fort St. George*, the repreſentatives of the honourable united *Eaſt India* Company (which indicates a public offence, or miſconduct in me) I beg leave to trouble you with this addreſs in my own vindication, hoping that what I here advance, will evince to the honourable the Court of Directors, and to you gentlemen, that my non-execution of the new covenants, referred to in your letter, does not proceed from a ſpirit of oppoſition, or faction, but from a conviction of the impropriety of the meaſure.

I am

I am already under covenants with the Company, which I have not infringed, and for the due performance of which I have given ſecurity to the Company. To the legal reſtraints under which I am laid by theſe covenants, I willingly ſubmit, but unhappily the new covenants, which I have been deſired to execute, contain ſeveral extraordinary clauſes which the firſt do not, for they make a requiſition to me for the ſurrender of my primary rights, my perſonal ſecurity, perſonal liberty and property, to be abuſed, or not, at the mere *voluntas* of others; an exemption from which rights I do not conceive that I can yield, grant, or transfer, having no power inherent in myſelf to diſpoſe of them. Theſe covenants do alſo exact a renunciation of the protection of the laws of my country, laws framed to ſhield me, and every ſubject from the hand of injury, and oppreſſion. It is an eſtabliſhed maxim in our government, that a ſubject cannot diveſt himſelf of his allegiance to his natural prince. I know not, that I can wave the juſtice of my Sovereign and his laws with impunity; for although the laws are ſaid to be permanent, yet the interpretation of them being applied to the actions of men, which in their nature are mutable, muſt often be attended with a diverſity of judgment. I will not however, in the preſent caſe, preſume to define what the law may be; but whatever it is, I am perſuaded the honourable Company will conſtrue it with that liberality and benignity natural to the law, and to their diſpoſitions; and therefore, conſcious of my own rectitude towards the Company, I am willing to reſt my caſe on that law, which is written in the hearts of the Directors, and in yours, gentlemen.——I have the honour to be one of the judges of his Majeſty's court of record at this place, and, as ſuch, am under the obligation of an oath of office. I am therefore deſirous of preſerving that independance ſo eſſential to a judge and magiſtrate, and I cannot reconcile to myſelf the impropriety of my adminiſtering juſtice to my fellow-ſubjects, according to the laws, the efficacy of which, as far as they regarded myſelf, I had ſat at nought. But leſt I ſhould be underſtood to reflect on the conduct of my brethren who ſit with me on the bench, who may have ſigned theſe covenants, in juſtice to them, I think it incumbent on me to declare, that I believe their ſituation, and dependance on the Company's ſervice laid them under the neceſſity of executing them, and that they equally with me diſapprove of the meaſure.——And here I beg leave to offer to your recollection, that the independance of the judges of *England* was one of the firſt gracious acts of his Majeſty's reign; and the example of MAJESTY, I doubt not, will have due influence with the honourable Company.

I have already had the honour to inform you, gentlemen, that I was winding up my affairs, with a reſolution of returning to *England*, as ſoon as my concerns could be collected; and that therefore, I deemed the execution of the new covenants, in my ſituation, unneceſſary. This reſolution I ſtill keep, and am taking every means in my power to accompliſh it; but am apprehenſive the interdiction of trade, which, you have been pleaſed to lay me under, if there is any legal and juſt authority to impoſe it, muſt prove very detrimental to my intereſt, and to the intereſt of thoſe who employ me and have dealings with me, as it may prove an obſtruction to the calling in

of

of my diſtant concerns. And therefore I requeſt, that you would be pleaſed to remove the ſame, as I entertain too good an opinion of the equity and candour of the Company, and of you gentlemen, to ſuppoſe that they, or you mean to deprive me of any fair advantage, which I might reap from my trade during the term of twelve months given me to ſettle my affairs; and the rather, as the covenants under which I now ſtand with the Company, do not contain any interdictory clauſe of commerce within the above-mentioned period.

For the above reaſons, gentlemen, I have declined the execution of the covenants ſent me in *Auguſt* laſt; and as, on the one hand, I wiſh to avoid the appearance of oppoſition to the honourable Company's requeſts, or orders, ſo, on the other, I wiſh to ſhun the appearance of an unbecoming indifference to, or puſillanimous ſubjection of my rights; and am ſolicitous of preſerving a conſiſtency of conduct in my judicial, ſocial, and private character.

You will further be pleaſed to permit me to add a ſhort account of myſelf, ſince my coming to *India*. Soon after my arrival at *Madraſs*, I went to *China*, where I reſided ſome years, and where, I flatter myſelf, I was of ſome utility to the Company's affairs. I left that country, to my very great detriment, in obedience to the Company's orders. The Company, ſenſible of the injury done to me, by ordering me to leave *China*, permitted me, in the year 1765, to return to that country, and gave me three years to ſettle my affairs there; but the engagements which I had entered into here, previous to the receipt of that permiſſion, prevented my making uſe of it then; but it being ſtill in force, I purpoſe benefiting of the Company's indulgence to me, as ſoon as my affairs here are adjuſted; having large concerns in *China* unſettled, which may render my preſence in that country neceſſary.

Since my reſidence at this place, my conduct to the Company, and my engagements with them are well known to you, gentlemen; the former being dutiful and circumſpect, and the latter advantageous and punctual, I am emboldened to claim your teſtimony in my favour.

Permit me, gentlemen, to aſſure you of my deference for the honourable Company, that I wiſh proſperity to their affairs, and that I poſſeſs a due eſteem and regard for you.

I have the honour to be,
Honourable Sir and Sirs,
Your moſt humble and
obedient ſervant,

Fort St. George,
6th March 1773. (Signed) GEORGE SMITH.

NUM. LVII.

COPY of a Letter from Mr. Andrew Roſs *to the Preſident and Council at* Fort St. George, *relative to the new Covenants. Dated the 8th of* March 1773.

To the Honourable *Alexander Wynch*, Eſq; Preſident and Governor, *&c.* Council of *Fort St. George.*

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

THE letter which your Secretary has addreſſed to me, on the 23d paſt, by your order, puts me under the neceſſity of troubling the board again, upon the ſubject of the new covenants which have been offered to me.

I am ſorry to find, that the reaſons which I gave to the board, to ſhew the neceſſity which my ſituation and the circumſtances relating to theſe covenants laid me under, to aſk for a further delay in the execution of them (till theſe difficulties which preſented themſelves could be removed by a reference to the honourable Court of Directors) have been conſtrued into an abſolute refuſal.

I did truly repreſent to you, that my coming to this country was on the application of gentlemen at home, whoſe affairs were intruſted to me; and that this made it neceſſary for me to conſider them, and others who have ſince ſent me conſignments, as my employers, and myſelf as their agent.

That theſe conſigners may ſee reaſon to think (as indeed I apprehend they will) that their affairs, as well as my own, may eaſily be involved by thoſe clauſes in the new covenants, which I have pointed out in my letter to the board, but were not mentioned in the former covenants, which were executed by me with their knowledge.

That this did put me under the neceſſity of conſulting them before I executed this new covenant, leſt I ſhould preclude them from making a previous repreſentation to the Court of Directors on their own behalf and mine.

That it is to my friends in *England*, that my application for the uſual ſecurities is to be made (as it is expreſly ſo intimated to me in the firſt letter from your Secretary, of the 22d *Auguſt*) which indicates a neceſſity of making the contents of the deed firſt known to them.

That a counter-part of the covenant, which I executed in *England*, was interchanged with me, on the part of the Company; but in the preſent caſe, that I am ignorant whether a counter-part of this new covenant (even if other difficulties had not ariſen to prevent the execution thereof) was ready to be interchanged.

That my executing this new covenant might give cauſe to my friends at home, to think that I had committed a flagrant and open breach of the former; as the old covenant will probably appear to them altogether ſufficient to enforce the conditions which are preſcribed both by that and by the new.

That

That there was another alteration in theſe new covenants, which relates ſolely to the intereſt of my employers; and which it is, therefore, my indiſpenſible duty to apprize them of, before I bind myſelf to the performance of it, to wit, the advancing the conſulage upon all their conſignments to double the charge to which that allowance was limited by the old covenants: And, laſtly,

That there ſeems to be a contrariety between one part of theſe new covenants and another part, in relation to the term which is allowed for the reſidence of the free merchants in *India*, which ſhould be removed previous to its execution.

This is the ſubſtance of the reaſons which I took the liberty to offer, in ſupport of the delay which I aſked for. They appeared to me to be founded in reaſon and juſtice, and I did hope, from the candour and impartiality of your honour, *&c.* and from the conviction I have, that no detriment could ariſe to the affairs of the Company, or to their repreſentatives, from this delay, that theſe reaſons would weigh ſo far with you, as to prevent any reſolution being taken which might prove detrimental to me, or to my conſtituents, till the further pleaſure of the Court of Directors could be known.

But inſtead of this, it is now intimated to me, that I decline executing the new covenants; that the orders of the Court of Directors reſpecting theſe covenants are poſitive; that from my ſo declining to execute the covenants, the Preſident and Council deem my reſidence in *India* inconvenient to the Company, and do therefore require of me, conformable to my firſt engagements, to tranſport myſelf, with my family and effects, to *Great Britain*, within twelve months. And, in the mean time, that the Preſident and Council do poſitively forbid me to engage, or be concerned in any trade, or dealings whatſoever in *India*; otherwiſe than by getting in my outſtanding debts and effects, in order that I may have no plea, or pretence of any kind, for refuſing to tranſport myſelf, family, and effects, within the time limited.

In anſwer to theſe reſolutions of the board, I beg leave to ſuggeſt, that the reaſons which I gave on my own behalf were offered in the hopes, that a delay might be obtained till I could know from *England*, whether I could execute theſe new covenants with ſafety or not. And I did alſo hope (as I ſtill do) that the honourable Court of Directors, when they are made acquainted with theſe reaſons, will approve of a ſuſpenſion of any orders which they may already have given, till their further pleaſure is known.

I will not, therefore, trouble you at preſent with any particular remarks upon the intimation which I have received, to tranſport myſelf and my family to *Great Britain* within twelve months, nor with my opinion as to the regularity and legality thereof. But in regard to the further ſpontaneous reſolution of the board, which they have been pleaſed to add to this intimation, That they do, in the mean time, poſitively forbid me to engage, or be concerned in any trade, or dealings whatſoever in *India*, otherwiſe than by getting in my outſtanding debts and effects, that I may have no plea or pretence, of any kind, for refuſing ſo to tranſport myſelf and family; I do truly apprehend, that ſuch interdiction muſt, in its own nature, have a different effect from what is intended by the board, and I am fully perſuaded, that

your honour, *&c.* will, upon a reviſal and more ſerious conſideration of the matter, be ſo well convinced of the irregularity and hardſhip thereof, to me and to my employers, that you will think proper to recal it. My humble requeſt is, that you may do ſo; and I am ſo convinced, that this requeſt will appear to you juſt and equitable, that I need not trouble you with many reaſons in ſupport of it. Some of you, gentlemen, are, and have been many years merchants, trading, and entering into different engagements, as I have been; and there are alſo ſome members of the honourable board who receive conſignments from, and are agents for gentlemen in *England*. They, I think, in particular, will ſee the reaſon and propriety of my application. To the reflection, the experience and juſtice of the whole board, I refer myſelf, for a revocation of this reſolution. I am in hopes, and inclined to think, that the honourable Court of Directors do not order it; and I am very clear, that it is not authorized by any thing in the old covenants, nor indeed (if theſe were in force in regard to me) is it authorized by the new; and you will alſo permit me to add, that I really am not conſcious to myſelf, how any part of my conduct, as a free merchant, or in a public or private capacity, during my long reſidence in this ſettlement, has merited ſuch an extraordinary reſolution from the honourable board. It will be allowed, without any exaggeration, to be truly ſevere upon me, upon my employers, and upon others with whom I deal, or am connected with; and I do alſo believe, that it is altogether unprecedented. I have had the honour to be long known to, and to know the members of this honourable board. I do not ſuffer myſelf to think, that this interdiction did appear to them in that light which I am perſuaded it will, when they have re-conſidered it. It is not my intention to advance a ſerious complaint, where there is not a juſt cauſe. I do believe, and am ready to allow, that the multiplicity of other affairs which required the time and attention of the honourable board, when their reſolution was formed, may not have allowed ſo much leiſure to conſider of it, as it will now be admitted that myſelf, and others in my ſituation, had a juſt right to expect. It is now neceſſary for us to repreſent this, and to requeſt a re-conſideration and revocation thereof, which I accordingly do, and I rely upon the impartiality and juſtice of the board, that it will not be denied.

I have the honour to be,
With great reſpect,
Honourable Sir and Sirs,
Your moſt obedient and
moſt humble ſervant,

Fort St. George,
8th March 1773. (Signed) ANDREW ROSS.

NUM. LVII.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to* William James, *Esq; one of the* East India *Directors, containing a Proposal for the Introduction of Printing in* Bengal, *and a Specimen of the* Bengal *Alphabet in new-invented Types. Dated the* 23*d of* September 1773.

To William James, *Esq;*

SIR,

AT my leisure hours, I have sometimes employed myself in contriving a set of types for printing the *Bengal* language, which the present state of my finances will not admit of my finishing, on my own account. Inclosed you have a specimen of the letters of the alphabet, which are finished; but besides which, many compound and conjunctive characters are yet wanting.

As the introduction of printing with these types would be of eminent service in the Company's territorial dominions of *Bengal* and the adjacent provinces, particularly in your revenue-department, I should have no doubt but the Court of Directors would very readily contribute towards the completion of this desirable object, if the proposal did not come from me. But that the time which I have employed in this business may not, therefore, be thrown away, if I can help it, I take this method to know the determination of the Court, and request the favour of your proposing it to them, to take the types, on their own account, upon reasonable terms; and I will engage to compleat all the compound and other characters in a manner fit for printing with the greatest ease. I am, with respect,

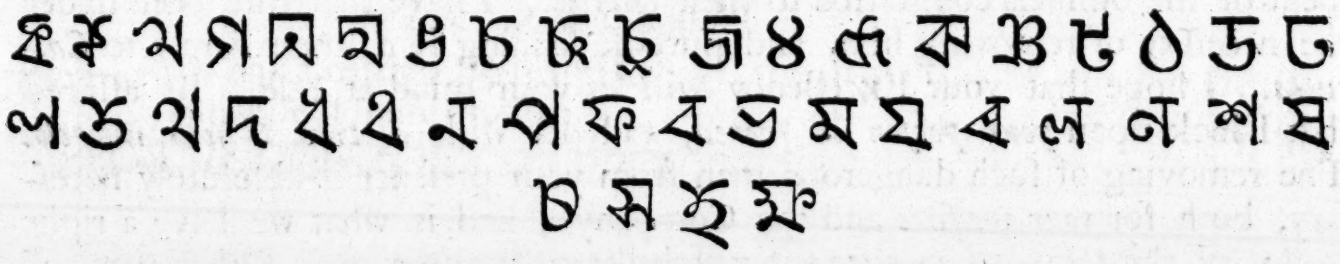
SIR,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

London, the 23*d Sept.* 1773. (Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

Specimen of the Bengal *Alphabet.*



LETTER B.

CONTAINING Tranſlations and Abſtracts of certain *Perſian* Letters, which paſſed between the *Eaſt India* Company's Preſidents at *Calcutta*, their Reſident at the *Durbar*, and the Nabobs and Officers of the COUNTRY GOVERNMENT, from *July* 1765, to *December* 1768; relative to the Trade and Government of *Bengal*; as the ſame ſtand on the Records of the Company.

NUM. I.

COPY of a Letter from the Right Honourable Robert *Lord* Clive, *then at* Murſhedabad, *to the Nabob* Najim al Dowlah. *Dated the* 6*th* July 1765.

WHEN your Excellency was in *Calcutta*, myſelf, and the gentlemen of the Committee, after mature conſideration, judged it to be for your intereſt, and the welfare of the country, that *Mahommed Reza Khawn*, *Maharajah Doolubram*, and *Juggut Seat*, ſhould be appointed, under you, to carry on the affairs of the government.

The reaſons of theſe appointments I explained to you fully in *Calcutta*, and they met your approbation. I had frequently heard, that *Cayem Beg* had, at different times, been making uſe of menacing expreſſions with regard to theſe gentlemen; and what I ſaw, upon my arrival here, confirmed to me the truth of this information: for *Mahommed Reza Khawn* and *Juggut Seat*, through the apprehenſion of their lives being in danger, were ſo much frightened, that they were unable to apply themſelves quietly to the management of the buſineſs committed to their charge. I have therefore been under the neceſſity of removing him, and purpoſe ſending him immediately to *Calcutta*. I hope that your Excellency will ſet your mind at eaſe. Be aſſured that I look upon *your perſon as ſacred*, and act with *a view to your intereſt*. The removing of ſuch dangerous men from your preſence is abſolutely neceſſary, both for *your welfare* and the Company's, and is what we have a right to do by the terms of THE TREATY ſubſiſting between us. Other particulars concerning this matter will be fully explained to you by Mr. *Middleton*, who will wait on you for that purpoſe.

NUM.

NUM. II.

COPY of a Letter from the King Shah Allum *to Lord* Clive, *and the Council at* Calcutta. *Received 15th* September 1765.

OUR faithful ſervant, General *Carnac* has, for theſe four years paſt, ſhewed forth the duties of obedience and attachment to the royal *Sircar* in ſuch manner, that we are inexpreſſibly pleaſed and delighted with him; particularly at this time he ſo exerted himſelf in puniſhing and driving out the *Marahtahs*, and ſettling the country, that we are now enabled to live without apprehenſion, in eaſe and pleaſure. That a perſon who has ſhewn ſuch fidelity to us, ſhould go unrewarded, is injurious to our dignity; and therefore, notwithſtanding the then ſcarcity of money in the royal *Sircar*, we were formerly ſeveral times deſirous of making the General ſome preſent, but he would by no means conſent to it. Now, by the bleſſing of God, and our auſpices, and by the General's labours, our affairs being in a flouriſhing and proſperous ſtate, we are pleaſed to make the General a preſent of two lacks of rupees; and it is our royal command, that with a view to our ſatisfaction, you, our faithful ſervants, ſhould grant him permiſſion to receive the ſaid money.

NUM. III.

COPY of a Letter from Mahommed Reza Khawn, *the acting Nabob at* Murſhedabad, *to* Souchit Roy, *Fowzdar at* Purnea; *tranſmitted by Mr.* Richard Barwell *in his Addreſs to the Select Committee, as recorded in their Proceedings of the 14th* January 1766.

THERE are ſeveral perſons gone into the *Morung*, and are now purchaſing, and carrying away from thence timbers. As there is a demand for timbers for the *Sircar*, I write to you, that you ſhould prohibit any perſons from purchaſing and carrying timbers from thence. In a ſhort time ſome perſon will be ſent from hence to buy up all the timber of *Morung*. Look upon theſe orders as peremptory.

NUM. IV.

COPY of a * *Letter from* Sujah al Dowlah, *Nabob of* Owd, *Reſident at* Feyſabad, *to* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq*; *Governor of* Bengal. *Dated the 12th of* March 1767, *as tranſlated by Mr.* William Luſhington.

AFTER the uſual compliments.———The affair of Captain *Nicol* is this, when he was ſtationed with me, I entertained an attachment for him, and was well ſatisfied with his behaviour.——General *Carnac* alſo recommended him in the ſtrongeſt manner to me.——He came to *Goruckpore*

* N. B. This letter is not entered on the Company's records.

to

to collect money he had lent *Fazel Ally Khawn*; from thence he came to see me, and requested a perwânah to carry on trade. Out of regard to General *Carnac*'s recommendation, and the attachment I formerly bore him, I issued an order permitting him to trade, and gave a house for his residence; when I received letters from you and Colonel Sir *Robert Barker* to this purport:

"Captain *Nicol* is no servant of the Company, nor have any orders been "received from them for his staying in *Hindostan*; and that you should send "him to *Europe*."

As there is no difference between us, and I never can deviate from your orders, and wish to obey the Company, in preference to any chiefs whatever, I went to Colonel *Barker* at *Illahabad*, and carried Captain *Nicol* with me, and gave him up to Colonel *Barker*, and he is now on his way to you. Out of a regard to our friendship, it is proper that, for my satisfaction, you suffer this officer to remain two or three years in *Calcutta*, and grant him a perwânah for carrying on trade, that by means thereof, he may acquire some money, when he will go to *Europe*; and without doubt, out of the strict friendship between you and me, you will act accordingly as I have written, and keep him in *Calcutta*; because I am highly pleased with the good service of this Captain, and in doing of this you will likewise give satisfaction to General *Carnac*.

The reports, that I had entertained Captain *Nicol* in my service, and delivered troops to him to be disciplined; that he had presented me with a *nuzzer* of four hundred muskets;—That Mr. *Gentil* had concealed these two gentlemen in his house, and kept another *European* with him; and that in different places he was searching after muskets for me, are all utterly false and unjust: by no means give credit to them. I never entertained Captain *Nicol* as a servant, nor was he ever concealed by Mr. *Gentil*; he brought him publicly to see me.——And as to the other *European*, where did he come from? he neither deserted nor was dismissed from your service, that he should come here; and what business has Mr. *Gentil* with muskets? My reasons for keeping Mr. *Gentil* were these; General *Carnac*, when he was present, recommended him to me at *Chuprah*; the General had a great esteem for him, and you also treated him as a friend. I assist him, and do every thing in my power for his satisfaction. What did I know of Mr. *Gentil*, if those circumstances had not brought him to my acquaintance? It is the desire of my heart and soul, at all times, and in every situation, to conform to the pleasure of the *English* chiefs, and I will do my utmost towards the observance of it. By the blessing of God our friendship will increase every day. Mr. *Gentil* will write some circumstances to you:—You will regard them all as just and true, because Mr. *Gentil* ever speaks the truth.

NUM. V.

COPY of a Letter from Francis Sykes, *Eſquire, Reſident at the* Durbar *or Court of the Nabob, at* Murſhedabad, *to* Purteet Ram, *Fowzdar, at* Ragemahl. *Dated the* 22*d* July 1767.

YOUR two *Arzees* informing me of the diſturbances cauſed by * *Panchoo*, a *Portugueze* writer, about 100 rupees, and your diſpute with Colonel *Peach* and ſeveral *Engliſh* gentlemen, on account of ſeveral things ordered by them, are arrived, and I have perfectly comprehended the contents. On receipt of this Perwânah, *you are to turn the* Portugueze *writer out of your diſtricts*, and ſend an account to me particularly ſpecified of whatever ſupplies were ordered by Colonel *Peach*, without delay. In future, when you procure any thing *by direction of the* Engliſh *gentlemen*, you will ſettle the account with them, and receive the payment.

NUM. VI.

COPY of a Letter from the ſame to the ſame. Dated the 25*th* Auguſt 1767.

YOUR letter, with the account of the *expences of Colonel* Peach *and other* Engliſh *gentlemen* is arrived. The *ready money which you have charged in the revenue* as given to the ſervants of the Colonel *ſurpriſes me*, and carries the appearance of falſhood. The whole ſhall be ſent to the Colonel, and if it is proved that you have made unjuſt charges, you ſhall certainly ſuffer for them.

NUM. VII.

COPY of a Letter from Purteet Ram, *at* Ragemahl, *to* Francis Sykes, *Eſquire, Reſident at the* Durbar. *Received the* 27*th* Auguſt 1767.

I HAVE received your Perwânah, written to this purpoſe, that a Company's Duſtuck has been forcibly taken away from a boat loaded with *cotch*, at a Chokey within my juriſdiction, and that it is neceſſary I inquire into the affair, and

* *Panchoo* was a black native, who, in *October* 1766, had charge of ſome boats, loaded with ſalt, belonging to *William Bolts*, from whom the Fowzdar had extorted one hundred rupees, before he would paſs the boats. In *July* 1767 *Panchoo* was ſent back to recover the money, when the above letter was written. Mr. *Sykes*'s evidence before a committee of the Houſe of Commons, on this fact, was as follows:

" And *Francis Sykes*, Eſq; being deſired to relate what he knew of the above tranſaction, " ſaid, he recollects that Mr. *Bolts* wrote to him relative to the ſtoppage of ſome ſalt-boats; " that on receipt of his letter, *he applied to the miniſters at Murſhedabad*, who inquired into " the circumſtances. The Fowzdar's anſwer was, that the duſtuck which Mr. *Bolts*'s people " were poſſeſſed of, had not been produced to the proper officer; but on further inquiry " into it, he found that Mr. *Bolts*'s people had the duſtuck, and he could not get at the true " knowledge, *why the boats were detained*; but he DESIRED THE ADMINISTRATION would

and inflict punishment on the offender, that the like may not happen in future! but that in case this representation is false, I should acquaint you. Upon the receipt of your perwânah, I called the people of the *chokey* before me, and made particular inquiry into the affair; but could not prove the taking of the dustuck on any of them. As I have taken mutchulcahs from all the Aumils here, I beg you will inform me, from the person who complained to you, the name of him who stopped the dustuck, that he may be obliged to make reparation. As the Company *are now masters of this country, and I am also a servant of the Company*'s, what power have my people to stop your dustucks? It has of old been the custom, that a duty should be paid to the Puchoutrah by all boats going to *Patna*; at present, that there are directions that no body shall stop the Company's dustuck, they are rigidly observed, as well as for those who have dustucks under the seal of Rajah * *Calian Sing*. I request you will have this matter thoroughly cleared up by the Vakeel of the Puchoutrah-*Daroga*.

Num. VIII.

COPY of a Letter from Seyd Mahommed Ally Khawn, *at* Hoogly, *to* Francis Sykes, *Esquire*. *Received the* 28*th* August 1767.

YOUR perwânah, the emblem of favour, has arrived, and I learn, therefrom your directions, that no money is to be taken up † from the merchants, on account of the revenues of the Sircar, without first obtaining the Nabob's permission, and that all collections whatever are to be made by myself or my *Gomastahs*, in the limits of my jurisdiction. Hitherto I have ever, in compliance with your orders, avoided taking up money from the merchants. Nevertheless the Zemindars, from their necessities, are frequently obliged to borrow small sums, which they return again in a short time: and if this is not allowed them, they will not be able to pay their monthly kists. The custom of borrowing of the merchants is not of to-day, but has been long established. By the blessing of God there has hitherto been no occasion for borrowing of money, nor will there be in future. And with regard to the collections, no body is permitted to make them but myself and the Gomastahs belonging to me.

Num. IX.

COPY of a Letter from Francis Sykes, *Esquire*, *to* Mahommed Reza Khawn. *Dated the* 2*d* December 1767.

FROM the contents of a letter with which I am favoured by the Nabob *Seyf al Dowlah*, I learn his intention of going to *Calcutta*. As he will be visited there by the principal gentlemen amongst the *English*, I *desire* you

" order the Fowzdar to return the money he had taken; which they did accordingly, and " the money was returned; and that he recommended to them to punish the officer. He " declared that no officer of the government ever received any orders for the stopping of any " boats whatever." Vide Reports, vol. III. page 469.

* The son of *Shetabroy*, who acted the character of Nabob at *Patna*.

† Money borrowed on *Tagábey* for the purposes of cultivation.

will

will ſee that he takes the proper dreſs and attendance with him; and that you will *wait upon him and inſtruct him in the manner of behaving and conducting himſelf with dignity and propriety*, that he may make an appearance becoming his rank and ſtation.

NUM. X.

COPY of a Letter from Francis Sykes, *Eſquire, to the nominal Nabob* Seyf al Dowlah. *Dated the* 2*d* December 1767.

YOUR letter of favour, acquainting me with your intention of going to *Calcutta*, has dignified and diſtinguiſhed me by its arrival. If I was at *Murſhedabad* I would do myſelf the honour of attending you. Your going there is highly proper: but as that place is the reſidence of the principal gentlemen amongſt the *Engliſh*, it is neceſſary that you ſhould appear there, with becoming dignity and ſplendor, and ſuch as is uſual for the *Omrahs* of rank. You will therefore give orders for a ſuitable train and attendance, and *carry with you rich clothes and jewels*; and by no means leſſen any thing of *your conſequence:* and with regard to your behaviour, you will conſult *Muzzuffer* * *Ally Khawn*, who is with you, and ſupport, on every occaſion, a due ſtate and dignity. My regard and attention to your welfare being great, I take the liberty to mention theſe few particulars.

NUM. XI.

COPY of a Letter from the ſame to the ſame, of the ſame Date.

WHAT you have written on the ſubject of Monſieur † *Chevalier* beginning to dig a ditch round the *French* factory, under pretence of the overflowing of the water, with the prohibition made by *Seyd Mahommed Khawn*, I have underſtood, and received copies of your letters to the *Khawn* and M. *Chevalier*. You have done extremely well in forbidding M. *Chevalier* to proceed in his undertaking, and in ordering the *Khawn* to impede him therein: and I hope you will repeat your injunctions, and by no means let him carry it into execution.

NUM. XII.

COPY of a Letter from the ſame to Mahommed Reza Khawn. *Dated the* 10*th* December 1767.

FROM the report of the Vakeel of *Reza al Deen Khawn*, it appears that of the amount of the ſtatement for the month of *Aghun* there has been one lack already remitted, and that the balance of one lack ſeven thouſand rupees would be forwarded ſhortly. I deſire you will acquaint me if it is

* The title of *Mahommed Reza Khawn*.
† The Governor of the *French* ſettlement at *Chandernagore*.

arrived. Your writing again to *Seyd Mahommed Khawn* and M. *Chevalier* is very proper, and I hope you will by no means permit him to dig the ditch round the factory. What you have written on the ſubject of the illneſs of the Nabob *Seyf al Dowlah*, has given me much pain.

NUM. XIII.

COPY from the ſame, to Purteet Ram, *Fowzdar at* Ragemahl. *Dated the* 10*th* December 1767.

I Now learn that you have ſtopped the Company's timbers, and thoſe of other merchants, going from *Purnea* to *Calcutta*, on account of duties. The ſtopping the former is extremely improper, and as the latter *have paid duties here*, you will releaſe them on receipt of this perwânah.

NUM. XIV.

COPY of a Letter from Mahommed Reza Khawn *to* Francis Sykes, *Eſq*; *Received the* 12*th* December 1767.

I HAVE received your letter, acquainting me, that there are every day complaints made of the violences and oppreſſions of the renter of Nabob-*Gunge*, who, for his own profit, is guilty of rapine and extortion towards the Ryots and Merchants.

In conſequence of your repreſentation, I have ordered him to be diſplaced from his farm, and a man of probity appointed in his room.

NUM. XV.

COPY of a Letter from Francis Sykes, *Eſq*; *then at* Purnea, *to* Mahommed Reza Khawn. *Dated the* 17*th of* December 1767.

THIS day, which is *Friday* the 25th of the month *Ragib*, I am ſafely arrived at *Purnea*. I met *Reza al Deen Mahommed Khawn* at *Taajepoor*. To-morrow I ſhall begin upon buſineſs. *Rajah Ram* is alſo arrived, and the diſpute about the collections ſhall be determined in his preſence. The accounts of *Attom Purkoſs* ſhall alſo be taken in hand, and I deſire you will ſend me an account of what money he has received from the Sircar, as the examination of his charges muſt be at a ſtand till it arrives. The province of *Purnea* appears to me very much racked and diſtreſſed, *the greateſt part of the Ryots have taken to flight, and the country is become a waſte and habitation of birds and beaſts*. Some means muſt be fallen on for its being repeopled and cultivated, otherwiſe there is no proſpect but of increaſing miſery. If *By-*

aram

aram Chowdry can bring matters to a ſpeedy concluſion, I will ſoon be with you: in the mean time I requeſt you will conſider of *ſome ſcheme* for the benefit of this country, and acquaint me therewith.

NUM. XVI.

COPY of another Letter from Francis Sykes, *Eſq*; *at* Purnea, *to* Mahommed Reza Khawn. *Dated the 17th of* December 1767.

MY FRIEND,

IN your letter you acquaint me with the meaſures you have taken for putting a ſtop to the ditch digging by Monſ. *Chevalier* round the *French* factory. Your ſending the horſemen for that purpoſe was extremely judicious, and if that has not the deſired effect, *the ſtoppage of their trade will undoubtedly take place.*

NUM. XVII.

COPY of another Letter from Francis Sykes, *Eſq*; *at* Purnea, *to* Mahommed Reza Khawn. *Dated the 17th* December 1767.

AT this time a *Frenchman* with a perwânah from M. *Chevalier*, chief of the *French* factory, has arrived here with an intention of eſtabliſhing a new factory and carrying on trade in *Purnea*, and *Reza al Deen Mahommed Khawn* has alſo given * him a perwânah with permiſſion to eſtabliſh himſelf in the country. Heretofore there never has been a *French* factory at this place, nor has any thing ſo unlicenſed been practiſed, or has any *European* eſtabliſhed a new factory without the permiſſion of the Nazim. Nor on this occaſion have you been made acquainted, nor I received any information thereof. Should there be a *French* factory eſtabliſhed at *Nautpoor*, and they ſhould carry on trade in grain, timber, and other articles, which are not exports, *what are the merchants of this country to do?* undoubtedly they will be driven to great difficulties. I deſire you will write with ſeverity to M. *Chevalier*, to deſiſt from ſuch proceedings; as alſo very ſtrictly to *Reza al Deen Khawn*, by no means to permit any *French* factories to be eſtabliſhed. On this occaſion exertion is neceſſary, ſince no new factory or *illicit trade* muſt be permitted in this country.

NUM. XVIII.

COPY of a Letter from Harry Verelſt, *Eſq*; *to the Nabob* Moneer al Dowlah, *acting Miniſter to the King* Shah Allum *at* Illahabâd. *Dated 3d* January 1768.

I AM rejoiced by your friendly letter, the particulars of which I underſtand, and deſire you will continue the ſame punctual communication of every material occurrence. My friend, it cannot have eſcaped your con-

* Here the reader will pleaſe to obſerve that the natives of the country had no idea of preventing any man from keeping a warehouſe, or as Mr. *Sykes* expreſſes it, eſtabliſhing a factory, who paid the duties and peaceably ſubmitted to the laws of the country.

ſummate

ſummate experience, how much inconſtancy, giddineſs, and clamour reigns amongſt a divided multitude, how artificial their alarms, how exaggerated their conjectures always prove! In the courſe of my conferences with you at *Calcutta*, you may recollect my informing you of the ſpirited offers the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah* had made to us (if his Majeſty ſhould conſent) of heading a diverſion of his own troops, led on by his royal and auſpicious ſtandards, againſt our common enemy, and your declining the generous overture, becauſe theſe enemies are ſo little formidable that they ſhould draw our contempt rather than engage our apprehenſion. No ſooner was the Nabob acquainted with our real ſituation than he accommodated his conduct thereto, and *I have uncontroverted intelligence that he has already diſbanded part of his forces*, and will confine the ſtrength of his army for the future, merely to the domeſtic neceſſities of his Government, the regulation of his revenues, and the occaſional chaſtiſement of rebellious Zemindars. In the mean time *his letters to me ſeem to breathe the ardour of friendſhip and ſincerity*, rather than the ſpirit of ambition or deſigns.

You are anxious, my friend, to receive authentic advices from the *Deckan*. I have the pleaſure to inform you, that the wild ambition of our adverſaries has dropt its lawleſs projects, and the experience they have had of our ſuperiority, has at laſt opened their eyes to the dangers in which their own perfidy has involved their names and their fortunes. *Hyder Naicke* has actually employed a mediator, with the concurrence of his confederate the Nazim, to propoſe conditions, and make atonement for his iniquitous conſpiracies againſt us, our allies, and the public repoſe. I cannot therefore doubt but that a final ceſſation of arms is near at hand, and that the tranquillity of the *Deckan* will ſoon be ſecured on the moſt permanent principles. If our enemies are, notwithſtanding this plauſibility, acting only on a temporary reſpite, they are courting their own deſtruction. The high notions of their power, which deſigning people are ſo induſtrious in propagating, are as chimerical, as the founders of them are contemptible. Conſider them as they were ſituated at the opening of this war, their ſtrength entire, their confidence elated, and their hopes ſanguine; even then our arms found an eaſy conqueſt over them, and they had ſcarcely conceived the deſign of oppreſſion before they felt the ignominy of defeat. But now what have they to hope for, and what have they to fear: they who are diſpirited by loſſes and ſtung by conſcious crimes; we who are but lately victorious, and inſpired with the juſtice of our cauſe? In this happy ſituation of affairs I am confident, that I ſhall ſoon have an opportunity of acquainting my friend with the final adjuſtment of every difference. However, I would ſtill have *the firmaun for the Deckan* tranſmitted me with all expedition, and rely on the attention of my friend for that purpoſe.

On a *Rukah*; (or Note by way of Poſtſcript)

I HAVE already written to the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah* concerning Monſ. *Gentil*, and am convinced his Excellency will not heſitate a moment to baniſh from his preſence and councils, a perſon whom he detects in promoting any ſyſtem of politicks injurious and detrimental to our general and relative intereſts.

NUM.

NUM. XIX.

COPY of a Letter from Mahommed Reza Khawn *to* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq*; *Received the* 27*th* February 1768.

ON the firſt of *Shawall*, your ſervant arrived at *Hoogly*, where he was met by Mr. * *Vernet* and his Council, and the uſual civilities were obſerved on both ſides.

Pertab-pore is a place within the dependencies of *Hoogly*, and was never annexed to *Chinſurah*. When *Mirza Coſſim Khawn* was Naib of the Fowzdary, the *Dutch* advanced their ancient boundary forward, and thus comprehended *Pertab-pore* within their own territory. *Mirza Coſſim* was poſſeſſed of a houſe at *Pertab-pore*, and connived at an encroachment for the ſake of the *Dutch* protection. I expoſtulated with the *Dutch* Directore, and told him, "that "it was not becoming to encroach on the King's rights, by ſo manifeſt a tranſ- "greſſion of his ancient boundary; it is neceſſary that you remove it from "*Pertab-pore*, and again fix it in it's proper place." I farther gave directions to *Mahommed Ally Khawn*, before them, that if he found the leaſt trifling intended, he ſhould then himſelf remove the boundary from *Pertab-pore*.

Monſieur *Chevalier* excuſed himſelf on account of illneſs, and deputed his ſecond in Council, with two others. I behaved to them with all the politeneſs I have hitherto ſhewn, and diſcourſed on all material points.

When I arrive at *Murſhedabad*, I will ſend down the perwânah, † with the additions. Divers affairs have detained me two days in *Hoogly*; and as I have in that time completely ſettled the buſineſs of the ſalt-diſtricts, I ſhall now, without loſs of time, repair to *Murſhedabad*.

NUM. XX.

COPY of a Letter from Harry Verelſt, *Eſq*; *to* Moneer al Dowlah. *Dated the* 19*th* May 1768.

I HAVE received your letter, wherein you inform me, that you did not mean the words "ſole Adminiſtrator of the Royal Houſe" of yourſelf, but of the King, and that the word *I* is not in your letter; and that I moſt probably have miſapprehended your letter in the hurry of buſineſs. The particulars of your letter were laid minutely before me; and though I am not well acquainted with the *Perſian* myſelf, yet I have ſo thorough a confidence in the abilities and integrity of the gentlemen who have charge of our correſpondence, that I am convinced of their accuracy. As you aſſure me you did not mean yourſelf, but his Majeſty, I believe your declaration; but it was certainly great

* The Preſident or *Directore* and Council of the *Dutch* ſettlement at *Chinſurah*.

† This was probably the foul copy of a perwânah which had been ſent him to write fair, and to iſſue as coming from himſelf.

want of attention in you to ſuffer ſuch a miſtake. I know the word *I* is not in the letter; but let me refer it to yourſelf, whether the laſt paragraph of your letter, "I conſider myſelf, *&c.*" can be applied to any but yourſelf, according to the invariable cuſtom and propriety of writing? Had you meant "his Majeſty," you would have wrote "*are*," and not "*is*." Your *rukah*, which I incloſe, is a farther proof of your negligence. Who ever heard of the expreſſion "*I is*," which you ſay you would have wrote had you meant yourſelf? Let me adviſe you to be more circumſpect in future, and not attribute your own miſtakes to my inattention, or want of capacity in thoſe employed by me: and let me alſo, as a friend, recommend it to you, to quit all ſecret thoughts, as well as open reflections, on the "ſole Adminiſtration" of the Royal Houſe; for they are not for your advantage.

NUM. XXI.

COPY of a Letter from the Rajah Shetabroy, *at* Patna, *to* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq*; *Received the 20th* May 1768.

MR. *Carvalho*, Chief of the *French* Factory, has ſent frequent meſſages to me, deſiring *Nizâmut*-perwânahs for the purchaſe of cloths, and other commodities of this province. *Though he is willing to pay the uſual duties, yet as I have no * orders of your's on this point*, I requeſt to know what you direct, that I may act accordingly.

NUM. XXII.

COPY of a Letter from Mahommed Reza Khawn *to* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq*; *Received the 15th* July 1768.

I HAVE received your gracious † letter, and duly comprehended the contents thereof. I have now ſent proper directions to the ſeveral mints, to ſuppreſs the gold coinage; and there is already a ſtop put to it at *Murſhedabad*. But, gracious ſir, conſider what conſiderable ſums have been coined and received by the Shroffs and Merchants at the rate of fourteen rupees. The mohurs will ſo intirely fall out of repute by this new regulation, that the Shroffs and Merchants muſt be obliged to paſs them for eleven or twelve rupees at moſt; and thus their trade will be ruined, and themſelves reduced to beggary. *This is one of the principal cauſes of the bankruptcies among the Shroffs and Merchants.* —Your ſervant is ready to receive and obey your orders.

* After conſidering the ſituation of theſe Nabobs and Miniſters, as proved in pages 255, 265, and other parts of this *Appendix*, it will afford the Reader ſome amuſement to peruſe the evidence of *Thomas Rumbold*, Eſq; before a Committee of the Houſe of Commons, relative to their independency. See *Reports*, Vol. III. Pages 268 and 269.

† The letter here referred to was not recorded in the Company's books.

NUM. XXIII.

ABSTRACT of a Letter from Harry Verelſt, *Eſq; to the Naboh* Sujah al Dowlah. *Dated the 27th* July 1768.

DESIRING * him to grant a perwânah to *Bal Gobind*, for the recovery of money due to him from *Khawn Daſs*, and which was awarded to him by an arbitration at *Illahabad*. The perwânah, directed to the Aumils, *&c.* that all people having money of *Khawn Daſs* in their hands, ſhould pay it in to the arbitration, that the ſums awarded may be diſcharged.

NUM. XXIV.

COPY of a Letter from Mahommed Reza Khawn *to* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq*; *Received the 1ſt* Auguſt 1768.

PRIOR to this I received a letter from your Excellency, concerning the demands upon *Ramnaut*. This affair has been hitherto delayed by the various pretences and falſe teſtimonies he produced on this occaſion. I am now *informed by* † *Gocul Ghoſaul*, that his pretences are all groundleſs, and am therefore proſecuting the demands on him with all ſtrictneſs. When he has cleared himſelf of theſe demands, I will immediately inform your Excellency thereof.

NUM. XXV.

COPY of a Letter from Harry Verelſt, *Eſq*; *to* Mahommed Reza Khawn. *Dated the 12th* Auguſt 1768.

I HAVE lately received a letter from *Meer Zeyn al abed deen Khawn*, informing me of your having iſſued a perwânah for releaſing *Rogonaut Mundy*'s ſhare of the preſent year's ſalt, and you will herewith receive a copy thereof. *As the Committee's term is unexpired*, I cannot ſuppoſe that this perwânah was iſſued with your privacy. It is neceſſary that you uſe your utmoſt vigilance, and enjoin the Aumils in every quarter, more ſtrictly than before, *not to* ‡ *allow of any perſon to move the preſent year's ſalt till the diſſolution of the Committee.*

* The Reader will pleaſe to advert to this interference with the adminiſtration of juſtice in *Sujah al Dowlah*'s dominions: an interference that could not fail of opening a door to the groſſeſt abuſes. In this inſtance, however favourable the Preſident's original intentions might have been to the plaintiff *Bal Gobind*, by papers now in the Writer's poſſeſſion, it appears to have furniſhed opportunities for defrauding him of conſiderable ſums of money; and for precluding him, finally, from the recovery of a juſt demand, to the amount of rupees 149,036—13—3.

† Governor *Verelſt*'s Head-Banyan for mercantile affairs. See his recommendation of this man to his ſucceſſor, Letter A, Page 233.

‡ Salt being made on low grounds, which are overflowed upon the periodical ſwelling of the *Ganges*, what could it avail the poor natives to be permitted to make ſalt, and not allowed to remove it?

NUM. XXVI.

ABSTRACT of a Letter from Mahommed Reza Khawn *to* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq; Received the* 15*th* Auguſt 1768.

ACQUAINTING Mr. *Verelſt* that his reaſon for iſſuing a perwânah to *Meer Zeyn al abed deen Khawn* for the releaſe of *Rogonaut Mundy*'s ſalt was, his repreſenting the ſpot on which his ſalt lies to be liable to inundations, and deſiring permiſſion to remove it to a higher ſituation near *Hoogly*; and that it was never intended he ſhould move it farther, or * ſell it in the country: ſo that there could be no difference, whether it lay at *Hoogly*, or in the khallaries.

NUM. XXVII.

ABSTRACT of a Letter from Meer Zeyn al abed deen Khawn, *Fowzdar of* Hoogly, *to* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq; Received the* Auguſt 1768.

ACKNOWLEDGING receipt of Mr. *Verelſt*'s perwânah, and acquainting Mr. *Verelſt*, that he has ſtationed proper Chokies, and keeps a vigilant eye on the Merchants, *ſo as to make it impracticable for them to move their ſalt*, or elude his people before the expiration of the Committee.

NUM. XXVIII.

ABSTRACT of a Letter from Babooram, *Naib* (*or Deputy*) *of the Zemindar of* Jeſſore, *to* Harry Verelſt, *Eſquire. Received the* 3*d* September 1768.

REPRESENTING, that great diſturbances had been ſet on foot by certain Peons of the *Calcutta-Cutcherry*, and that *Mahibym Sing*, a Havaldâr, with twelve Seapoys, had alſo been guilty of great enormities; therefore he requeſts, that Mr. *Verelſt* would order a perſon on the ſpot to examine into the truth of the facts, and inflict due puniſhment on the guilty.

NUM. XXIX.

COPY of a Letter from Mahommed Reza Khawn *to* Harry Verelſt, *Eſquire. Recorded on Conſultation the* 27*th* December 1768.

THE mouths of every body are full of the praiſes of the governor and gentlemen of the council, for their judicious and upright management of the affairs of the Empire; and their paying due regard to every thing that

* Or what could it avail the natives to remove their ſalt, being prohibited from ſelling it?

concerns

concerns the welfare of its inhabitants; and the wiſe regulations eſtabliſhed in theſe Subahs are the effects of their juſt counſels. Mr. *Sykes*, who has reſided for theſe three years paſt at *Murſhedabad*, on the part of the Company, has in every tranſaction conducted himſelf with an unblemiſhed character, and with the greateſt equity and prudence; ſo that both rich and poor acknowledge their obligations to him, and every thing operated in conjunction with him; and I now am much diſtreſſed by his abſence. I am hopeful that you will appoint a gentleman to ſucceed him poſſeſſed of his virtuous diſpoſitions, and who will make it his ſtudy to promote the Company's intereſt and the welfare of mankind; that my mind may be ſet at eaſe; the affairs of the Country be properly tranſacted; and that the proſperity of the Nizamut and its ſubjects may be conſpicuous. My earneſt prayers are put up to the throne of the Almighty for the welfare of the Company's affairs, and that the inhabitants of this country may ſpend their days in eaſe and plenty.

NUM. XXX.

ABSTRACT of a Letter from the Nabob Seyf al Dowlah *to* Harry Vereliſt, *Eſquire. Recorded on* * *Conſultation the 27th* December 1768.

"TO the ſame purpoſe as the former, with this addition only, that he ſends, agreeable to the accompanying liſt, a few trifles, as a token of his remembrance; which Mr. *Sykes* would not accept of at *Murſhedabad*, and which he now requeſts the governor to make a tender of to him.

Liſt of the † things he ſent:

A diamond,
A gold gulaab-puſh, with its appertenances,
A gold beetle-box, with its appertenances,
A gold flower-pot, with its appertenances."

* At this conſultation, the board "AGREED, that Mr. *Sykes* be permitted to receive the "preſent offered him, until the pleaſure of the Court of Directors is known."

† Theſe THINGS were valued by Mr. *Robert Maddiſon* at a lack of rupees; ſee Letter A, number XXXIX, page 194: and the reader will pleaſe to remark that the Nabob *Seyf al Dowlah* was the ſame infant to whom the letter number X had been addreſſed.

LETTER C.

CONTAINING Copies of Public Letters and Proceedings relative to a Diſpute between *Randolph Marriott*, Eſquire, as Chief, and *William Bolts* as Second, of the Company's Factory at *Banáras*, in the Year 1765; with conjunctive, narrative, and explanatory Notes.

NUM. I.

"*To* Mr. William Bolts.

SIR,

UNDERSTANDING you have confined the ſon of one *Nondopurſaud*, a merchant of this place, you will pleaſe directly to releaſe him, and let me know what complaint you have againſt him.

I am, SIR,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

Banáras, *9th Auguſt* 1765. (Signed) RANDOLPH MARRIOTT."

NUM. II.

"*To* Randolph Marriott, *Eſq*;

SIR,

THE complaint is upon a bond of his for ten thouſand rupees, which I have, and am impowered to recover by the proprietor* *Cogee Petruſe*. He acknowledges the debt, and is about giving ſecurity for the payment. If he cannot do this, I ſhall then deliver him over to the † Cutwâl, as it is always

* *Cogee Petruſe* was an inhabitant of *Calcutta*, who had been very ſerviceable to the *Engliſh* gentlemen in the revolutions in *Bengal*. He was *Meer Coſſim*'s agent during the ſhort reign of that Nabob, and his brother *Cogee Gregory*, alias *Gurgueen Khawn*, hereafter mentioned, was that Nabob's General. Upon the breaking out of the war with *Coſſim*, in *June* 1763, the Governor and Council thought it prudent to keep *Petruſe* under a guard, as a ſecurity for Mr. *Hay*, one of the deputies whom *Meer Coſſim* detained: and he was afterwards taken under cuſtody, into the field, with the *Engliſh* army, in hopes thereby, and through his brother's influence, to obtain the releaſement of the other unhappy *Engliſh* gentlemen, whom the Nabob *Coſſim* had impriſoned. But this had a very contrary effect from what was intended; for, from the frequency of letters and meſſages that paſſed between *Petruſe* and *Gregory*, of which the Nabob had due intelligence, he ſuſpected them both, and in a jealous fit cauſed *Gurgueen Khawn* to be maſſacred by ſome black officers, under the pretence of mutinying for their pay. *Meer Coſſim* afterwards pretended to be ſorry for his death, but he never chaſtiſed the aſſaſſins.

† There was no Fowzdar at *Banáras:* but at this time the Cutwâl, who is a Fowzdar's deputy, appointed by the Prince *Shah Allum*, tranſacted the buſineſs of the Fowzdary and Cutwaly-offices.

my

my practice, on theſe occaſions, to apply in the moſt regular manner for juſtice: and I conceive you have no juriſdiction in thoſe matters, excepting what I am jointly a ſharer with you in.

I am, SIR,

Banáras,
9th Auguſt 1765.

Your moſt obedient ſervant,
(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS."

NUM. III.

" *To* William Bolts, *Eſq*;

SIR,

I HAVE received your * *Chitt*, and am much ſurprized at it. If you have any complaint againſt any one, you are to make it to me. I muſt inſiſt on your releaſing the merchant, and ſending him to me by the bearer; as you have no authority to ſeize any perſon whilſt I remain at the factory.

I am, SIR,

Banáras,
9th Auguſt 1765.

Your moſt obedient ſervant,
(Signed) RANDOLPH MARRIOTT."

NUM. IV.

" *To* Randolph Marriott, *Eſq*;

SIR,

YOUR " *Chitt*" equally ſurprizes me; for I have not yet pretended that any one of the factory (not even yourſelf) has the authority to ſeize or confine any perſon. Surely you muſt have forgot the contents of the Sunnud, Number IV, which you, jointly with General *Carnac* have ſigned on the part of the Company, giving up the Aumeen and Fowzdar-offices to the government. I muſt again repeat, that the man ſhall be delivered to the Government-officers only, to whom I have made application, and from whom, if you ſend a ſecurity-bond, I dare ſay you may have him ſent to you, if you want him. You will pleaſe to obſerve, that I have only tranſgreſſed the cuſtom of the preſent times, by not applying to your Banyan, who acts unlimitedly as Cutwal, Fowzdar, and Mint-maſter. If you think yourſelf aggrieved, pleaſe to commit your ſentiments to paper, as I will mine, and let us hold a Council, and tranſmit them regularly to the board, as there are many things which will want redreſs, if the factory continues.

I am, SIR,

Banáras,
9th Auguſt 1765.

Your moſt obedient ſervant,
(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS."

* A word in common uſe, in *India*, for a note.

NUM.

NUM. V.

" *To* William Bolts, *Eſq*;

SIR,

YOU will pleaſe to deliver over the priſoner you have confined to the bearer; and whatever complaint you have againſt him, I ſhall ſee you ſhall have juſtice done. If you ſhould not chuſe to do it, he has my orders to bring him away, and remove the guard of Seapoys that are with you.

I am, SIR,
Your moſt obedient ſervant,

Banáras,
9th Auguſt 1765. (Signed) RANDOLPH MARRIOTT."

The reader muſt be here informed, that the Chief of a ſubordinate factory has the command of the black troops, called ſeapoys; and that a guard is uſually kept at the doors of the reſt of the gentlemen of the factory, to preſerve reſpect in the eyes of the natives. This was the guard above alluded to, and ordered to be removed. Without making allowances, on this occaſion, for the feelings of a man publicly affronted, and ſo ſituated among a people characteriſtically proud, perhaps the reader might condemn the aſperity of the anſwer.

NUM. VI.

" *To* Randolph Marriott, *Eſq*;

SIR,

I RECEIVED your laſt note when I was at dinner. I had before acquainted you of my application to the proper officer of the government, who had committed him to the charge of his own Peons. Your application, therefore, to me was very improper. However, as, by the baſeſt inſtance of oppreſſion, you have ſent a party of ſeapoys, and have reſcued him from the government's officers, it is to you I ſhall look for payment of the demand, as principal debtor, inſtead of applying to you, as you ſeem to expect, for the exerciſe of a juriſdiction, you are ſo far from being authorized to, that you have given up all pretenſions to it in a public treaty, to which you have ſet your hand, on the part of the Company. I therefore tender you the account herewith, and on payment of the money will cauſe the original bond to be delivered you. Pleaſe to give me a categorical anſwer, whether, or not, you chooſe to pay the amount; being, with intereſt to this day, patna ſunott rupees eleven thouſand four hundred and forty-one, and eleven annas? If you refuſe it, pleaſe to impower your attornies to anſwer for you in the Mayor's Court; as, in that caſe, I am reſolved to proſecute you to the utmoſt for the amount of it, with damages.

I am, SIR,
Your moſt obedient ſervant,

Banáras,
9th Auguſt 1765. (Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS."

The

The writer did not hear farther from Mr. *Marriott* till the next day, when that gentleman ſent him a copy of the complaint which he had made on this occaſion to the board at *Calcutta*. The Right Honourable Lord *Clive* being abſent from the ſettlement, it was addreſſed as follows:

NUM. VII.

" *To* William Brightwell Sumner, *Eſq*; *and the Gentlemen of Council at* Fort William.

GENTLEMEN,

YESTERDAY, on receiving a complaint, that Mr. *Bolts* had confined a merchant of this place for two days, in his, Mr. *Bolts*'s houſe, I wrote a note to Mr. *Bolts*, deſiring him to releaſe the man, and let me know what complaint he had againſt him; to which I received his anſwer, marked Number I, in the accompanying paper, being copies of the notes that paſſed between us. I then wrote him again, the purport of which you will ſee in Number II, to which he replied as *per* Number III. After waiting more than three hours, and Mr. *Bolts* not releaſing the merchant, I wrote him another note, as contained in Number IV, and *ſent it by a ſubahdar and ſix ſeapoys*. My orders to the ſubahdar were, to bring the merchant away, if Mr. *Bolts* would not releaſe him. It ſeems, by Mr. *Bolts*'s laſt note, that he had delivered the merchant to the Cutwâl's peons, though the Subahdar took him from Mr. *Bolts*'s houſe or gate-way, where he had been confined, yeſterday being the third day.

I have *given two ſeapoys with the merchant as a guard, that he may be ready to appear* to any complaint Mr. *Bolts* may have againſt him, when he makes it in a proper manner.

I have now, gentlemen, laid the facts before you in this affair, and am to requeſt redreſs of you againſt Mr. *Bolts*, for his diſputing the authority I have, as a Chief; for it is an order of the honourable board's, that no complaint ſhall be made to the country-government, but through the channel of the Chief. It is injuſtice to the merchant, for keeping him confined two days, without either applying to the country-government or me; and his ungenteel and threatening note, eſpecially his laſt, where he mentions commencing a ſuit againſt me in the Mayor's Court.

Be ſo kind, gentlemen, as to call upon *Cogee Petruſe*, whom Mr. *Bolts* ſays he acts for, to know what powers he has given Mr. *Bolts* in this affair; as the bond Mr. *Bolts* mentions is one of *Cogee Gregory*'s* (*Gurgueen Khawn*'s) due from two merchants of *Patna*, one of whoſe ſons Mr. *Bolts* confined, the merchant before-mentioned. As the late Nabob, *Meer Jaffier*, claimed all the effects of *Gurgueen Khawn*, *which the board looked upon as juſt*, this ſaid bond ought to be delivered to *Meer Jaffier*'s ſon, the preſent Nabob.

I am, GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

Banáras,
10th Auguſt 1765. (Signed) RANDOLPH MARRIOTT."

* See Note, Letter C, Page 300.

NUM.

NUM. VIII.

" *To the Worſhipful* William Brightwell Sumner, *Eſq*; *and the Gentlemen of the Council at* Fort-William.

Worſhipful Sir and Sirs,

MR. MARRIOTT having communicated to me the ſubject of a letter he has wrote to you, I am extremely glad it affords me at once an opportunity of applying to your impartial body, as well for juſtice, as the redreſs of grievances, to which this factory has been expoſed from the commencement of its eſtabliſhment.

The copies of the notes which have paſſed between Mr. *Marriott* and me, to gentlemen of your penetration, will ſufficiently explain the matters of fact which Mr. *Marriott* has repreſented. I ſhall only add on that head, that the man having got information of the bond's being in my poſſeſſion, kept himſelf *incog:* and was preparing to quit *Banáras*, when I got intelligence where he was, at a time when I could find none of the Cutwâl's people. I therefore, *as is the cuſtom of the country*, ſent a peon of my own for him, but in the moſt civil manner; in order, if it ſhould prove neceſſary, to deliver him over to the Cutwâl's people, after I had had a conference with him. Whether ſending a peon on theſe occaſions is not an unavoidable cuſtom, as it appears to me, and more particularly neceſſary from our ſituation in this country, I muſt leave to the ſuperior judgment of you, gentlemen. *That Mr.* Marriott *himſelf has frequently done it, on the like occaſions, I can eaſily prove. If therefore my judgment has miſguided me, gentlemen, in this point, I cannot but ingenuouſly ſubmit, and crave for this once the excuſe of your honourable board, as I have ever deteſted the leaſt appearance of oppreſſion.*

It was not my intention, while it could be avoided, to expoſe the man to the ſeverities of the Cutwâl's cutcherry, nor to confine him any where elſe; for it was no way neceſſary, as he had acknowledged the debt, and was going to give ſecurity for the payment of the money. Such was the ſituation of the caſe, and I was juſt going to inform Mr. *Marriott* of what had paſſed, when I received his firſt improper note; which determined me immediately to put him under the Cutwal's charge. Mr. *Marriott* afterwards ſent a party of ſeapoys, and reſcued him from the Cutwal's people. The treatment they met with, on this occaſion, will appear from the accompanying copies of their own declarations; of which the Cutwal, who is a favourite of the * King's, ſays *he will complain to his maſter.*

It is now neceſſary, worſhipful Sir and Sirs, to explain my motives for not making application on this occaſion to Mr. *Marriott.*

When I firſt arrived at this factory, I applied to that gentleman, to know what buſineſs there was to be done; and requeſting that we might, on all occaſions of buſineſs, hold regular Councils, and keep the cuſtomary regular regiſters of all public tranſactions. He anſwered me, that there was nothing

* *Shah Allum.*

te

to do, but to receive the Company's money from the Rajah; and *that every kind of juriſdiction of the Aumeen, Fowzdar, or Cutwal's offices had been given up to the country-government*; giving me copies of the public papers which had been executed by himſelf and the commander in chief on the part of our honourable maſters. As theſe papers have, I believe, been all tranſmitted to your honourable board, by reference thereto it will appear, that thoſe offices, as well as the mint, have been given up in the moſt public manner. Accordingly, in a public character, the factory have had nothing more to do, than the receiving of the monthly payments from the Rajah; and if any other buſineſs, properly the department of the factory, has been tranſacted, it has been done independently by the chief, no conſultations having been ever kept; while I have been always given to underſtand, even by Mr. *Marriott* himſelf, that in caſes of complaints he always ſends to the officers of the Government.

Theſe, Worſhipful Sir and Sirs, were my reaſons for not applying to Mr. *Marriott* for the exerciſe of a juriſdiction which he had publickly abdicated. What I was upon the point of doing, as a compliment to him as Chief, I was prevented from by his unexpected, unprovoked, unfriendly, and overbearing act of power, intended to affront me in a public manner; when at leaſt, for the honour of the members of this factory, as repreſentatives of the honourable Company, my ſtation, as ſecond, demanded ſomewhat more reſpect: an act which could only tend to the deſpotiſm of the Chief, and the deſtruction of thoſe ſalutary purpoſes intended by your appointment of a council.

In anſwer to the remark Mr. *Marriott* makes in the laſt paragraph of his letter, I have only to ſay, that I remember perfectly well, that the Honourable Board were formerly pleaſed to give an order, empowering *Cogee Petruſe* to receive and collect all his brother *Cogee Gregory*'s effects; and, if my memory fail me not, giving him the additional indulgence of a duſtuck on that occaſion. Had I not been very clear in this, I have the honour to aſſure you, gentlemen, that I never would have preſumed to intermeddle with this affair, in oppoſition to a public order of your Honourable Board. If any recent order has been given on this head, I am intirely a ſtranger to it, and ſhall be always extremely ready, as is my duty, to aſſiſt, to the utmoſt of my power, in ſeeing the intention of your orders complied with.

In regard to the guard of ſeapoys who only watch at my gate, which you will perceive, by Mr. *Marriott*'s note, he threatens to withdraw, I received them from him. It is the cuſtom at ſome other factories, not only for the ſecond, but the third and fourth in Council to have a watch at their doors. Mr. *Graham* likewiſe, whilſt his family was up here, had the ſame indulgence. In this country, where robberies and murders are very frequent, it appears more neceſſary than at any other factory. However, as I am averſe to the being indebted for this indulgence to the Chief, and expoſed to be affronted by their being withdrawn, whenever he may frown diſpleaſure, I have to requeſt of you, Worſhipful Sir and Sirs, to determine this point, as may appear to you moſt proper and neceſſary.

After the before-mentioned avowed relinquiſhment, on the part of the Honourable Company, of the public offices of Aumeen, Fowzdar, Cutwâl, and the Mint, it will doubtleſs appear ſtrange to you, gentlemen, that Mr.

Marriott, and his Dewan, or Banyan, *Durgachurn Metre*, ſhould, notwithſtanding, unlimitedly exerciſe thoſe offices. But it is a fact I am ſorry to inform you of, obliged by the clamours of the inhabitants againſt the oppreſſions they labour under; which, however, I have hopes have been exerciſed without the concurrence of Mr. *Marriott*; though his Banyan, in that caſe, on examination, will appear to be greatly in fault.

Notwithſtanding that repeated public orders have been given by your Honourable Board, in Councils, at which I believe Mr. *Marriott* himſelf has been preſent, prohibiting the Company's ſervants from holding grants of any kind whatever from the country-government, yet Mr. *Marriott* himſelf publicly holds the Mint-office, in open violation of thoſe orders. The manner in which it was obtained will appear from the annexed copies of ſix letters, written by Mr. *Marriott* to *Shetabroy*, dated the 1ſt, 12th, 15th, 21ſt, 23d, and 25th of *March* paſt, and one letter written on the ſame ſubject to *Moneer al Dowlah*, dated the 6th *March* paſt, as copied from a book of Mr. *Marriott*'s correſpondence with the country-powers; which, on my application to peruſe, was brought me by Mr. *Marriott*'s younger brother. And to increaſe Mr. *Marriott*'s profits from coinage, the City-*ſhroffs and Merchants have been ſummoned, and ſeverely prohibited from buying, ſelling, or exchanging rupees any where but at Mr. *Marriott*'s Coining-office; nay their property has been ſeized, and embargoed on this account.

The Aumeen and Cutwâl of the city have their juriſdiction wreſted from them, and their cauſes heard and decided by *Durgachurn Metre*, at his own houſe; where a conſiderable Durbar is conſtantly held on this account, and where many flagitious and corrupt affairs have been tranſacted.

As Mr. *Marriott* is inveſted with no diſtinct authority by your Honourable Board, except with regard to negociations with the chiefs of the country, I have proteſted againſt any buſineſs whatever being in future tranſacted without my being conſulted, as this was now become abſolutely neceſſary. I have alſo given Mr. *Marriott* copies of the repreſentation of facts which I have now the honour to lay before you, which I will duly ſupport by ſuch other proofs as may appear neceſſary to your Honourable Board.

I am with the moſt profound reſpect,

Worſhipful Sir and Sirs,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

Banáras,
12th Aug. 1765.

(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

Copies of Mr. Marriott's *letters to* Shetabroy *and* Moneer al Dowlah.

To Rajah *Shetabroy*. *Banáras*, *1ſt March* 1765.

"YOUR two letters are arrived. One letter you wrote to give two companies of ſeapoys with *Noor al Huſſon Khawn*; the other recommended "*Golaum Bonſole*: I am acquainted with them. What theſe people requeſt "of me I ſhall comply with, and by their letters you will be informed of

* The bankers and money-changers.

"this.

" this. I ſpoke to you about the * *Tankſall-Sunnud*; it is not yet arrived;
" it ſeems you have forgot it. I now write that I ſhall be obliged if you
" will forward it ſpeedily. I have ſent for the Zemindars of *Mow* and *Ma-*
" *hal*: on their arrival I ſhall make them ſettle their accounts, and ſend them
" to you, with their revenues. Always write me of your welfare."

To the Nabob *Moneer al Dowlah*. *Banâras, 6th March* 1765.

" *Meer Mahommed Coſſim*, an acquaintance of mine, be pleaſed to favour
" *Goruckpoor*, or any other place, where the revenues are not yet ſettled, be
" kind enough to give him charge of: this will be obliging me. About the
" *Tankſall*-Sunnud I before wrote *Shetabroy*. It is not yet arrived.—It ſeems
" he has not acquainted you with it. I therefore ſhall be glad if you will
" ſend me this Sunnud, and whatever the revenues are I ſhall regularly pay.
" Look on me as a friend, and write me of your welfare. *Mirza Coſſim*,
" now out of order, will ſhortly wait on you."

To Rajah *Shetabroy*. *Banâras, 12th March* 1765.

" Your letter, in anſwer to mine, is arrived; in which you write for me
" to ſend the *Tankſall* † *Caboolyeat*, and concerning *Bulwantſing*'s papers. I
" have peruſed the contents, and am pleaſed. As the Company and private
" merchants trade here, to take charge of the *Tankſall* is proper for me.
" What are the profits I know not. Should it be in another perſon's hands,
" it would not be well: therefore to take charge of it was proper. I there-
" fore write, I will give thirty thouſand rupees a year for it. This affair ac-
" quaint his Majeſty of, and ſend a Sunnud for it. Write me of your wel-
" fare."

To Rajah *Shetabroy*. *Banâras, 15th March* 1765.

" Your letter is arrived, in which you write, that the *Azemgur* and *Ma-*
" *hal* Zemindars are bad people, and that if I can collect the former rents
" that are due, it is well; and that I ſhould ſend a *Caboolyeat* for the *Ba-*
" *nâras-Tankſall*. On reading this letter I am well pleaſed. That thoſe
" Zemindars are bad people it is true, you well know it. I alſo gained a
" knowledge of them by their buſineſs. As theſe people firſt wrote to me,
" and deſired my protection, I therefore ſeek their welfare, but in a manner
" that the Sircar may be no loſer. Should theſe people pay their whole ba-
" lances, it is well; I will receive the amount and ſend it you. If they do
" not, I will ſend people to take poſſeſſion of the place, and have the re-
" venues collected, and ſend them to you. On account of the revenues of the
" *Tankſall* I will ſend a bill to-morrow, for two thouſand rupees. Let this
" be known in the preſence ‡, and ſend me a *Sunnud*. Write me of your
" welfare."

* The grant of the mint. † The paper containing the conditions of holding the mint.
‡ Meaning of the *King*, Shah Allum.

To Rajah *Shetabroy*. *Banáras, 21ſt March* 1765.

" THE letter you wrote me is arrived. You write me that I ſhould ſend " ſome revenues of the *Tankſall*, and ſome expences for the fees of the " * *Mohurees*. I am well pleaſed with this. The † *Aumil-nama* you ſent, " I have received. Before, I was not acquainted what I was to ſend: but " I ſent two thouſand rupees, in a bill of exchange, which you will receive. " Three thouſand rupees, balance of five thouſand, with five hundred ru- " pees for fees, I now order my Banyan to ſend you, by a bill of exchange: " you will deliver it into the preſence, and ſend me a Sunnud. I am " well acquainted that you are willing to ſerve me. Believe me your friend, " and write me of your welfare. The *Azemgur* and *Mahal* Vakeels, to " ſettle their revenues, came to me, and agreed to pay their revenues. I " before wrote you, as yet they have paid none. As you before wrote me " to aſſiſt *Noor al Huſſon Khawn*, in getting poſſeſſion, I have therefore or- " dered four companies to him, that he may go and collect the King's re- " venues."

To Rajah *Shetabroy*. *Banáras, 23d March* 1765.

" YOUR letter is arrived, in which you write that I ſhould ſend the " revenues of the *Tankſall* and the fees, and to ſend the *Vakeels* of *Azemgur* " and *Mahal* to *Bene Bahadre*. The *Sunnud* you ſent me is arrived. On " receiving your letter I am well pleaſed: you have my buſineſs at heart. " As you gave your own *Caboolyeat*, and ſent me the *Sunnud*, agreeable to " the *Sunnud*, I ſhall take poſſeſſion. A bill of exchange for two thouſand " rupees was ſent before, and another for five thouſand five hundred on " *Sodanund*, *Nitanund*, and *Mohanund*, which muſt be arrived. Should the " firſt two thouſand rupees not be arrived, inform me. I now ſend you a " *Caboolyeat* under my own ſeal: this you will deliver into the preſence.— " You write me to give the *Tankſall* to *Gapauldaſs*. My buſineſs is always " tranſacting: if this is in other people's hands, it would not be well.— " Agreeable to what you write, I have ordered the *Azemgur* and *Mahal-Va-* " *keels* to go to *Bene Bahadre*. Should they pay their revenues, their re- " venues ſhall alſo be ſent with them. I had ordered ſome ſeapoys with " *Noor al Huſſon Khawn*, but receiving your letter, I countermanded them, " which you will know. Write me of your health."

To Rajah *Shetabroy*. *Banáras, 25th March* 1765.

" YOU obligingly have wrote, and ſent me the *Sunnud* for the *Tankſall*, " agreeable to which I took poſſeſſion of the *Tankſall* the firſt of *Shawall*, " (or the 24th *March*.) Five thouſand rupees revenues, and five hundred " rupees I have ſent, which I imagine is arrived. On it's arrival, acquaint " me, and I ſhall be content. Agreeable to your letter, I was ſettling with " the *Azemgur-Vakeel*, and the Rajah had depoſited forty thouſand rupees " revenues. But in the interim your other letter arrived, in which you

* The clerks in office. † The order giving poſſeſſion.

" deſired

" desired I would send the *Vakeel* to *Bene Bahadre*. Thus I did not properly " understand what to do. This is surprizing. On the receipt of your letter, " I ordered the *Vakeel* to go to *Bene Bahadre*, and settle his accounts with " him. Agreeable to what you before wrote, I had ordered some seapoys " with *Noor al Hussun Khawn*. Write me speedily on this head, and I shall " act accordingly. To *Mow*, I have sent people. When the revenues ar- " rive, I shall forward them to the *Sircar*. Write me always of your wel- " fare."

NUM. IX.

" *To* William Brightwell Sumner, *Esq*; *and the Gentlemen of Council at* Fort William.

GENTLEMEN,

I MUST beg leave to make a few remarks on Mr. *Bolts*'s letter, in answer to the one I wrote you Gentlemen, the 10th instant, and inclose you likewise a copy of the merchant's representation of the case, as set forth in a petition to me.

Mr. *Bolts* says, he sent one of his peons for the merchant at a time he could get none of the Cutwâls. He likewise, you will observe, Gentlemen, kept the man confined from the 7th to the 9th instant, before he ever represented the affair to the Cutwâl. Nor, in his answer, does he make the least reply to what I allege against him, for his disobedience of the orders of the Board; which is, that no application should be made to the Country-government for any redress, on any occasion, at the subordinates, but through the channel of the Chief.

I am likewise to reply to what he says were his motives for not applying to me. *It is true, I told him there was no other business than the receiving the revenues from the Rajah, and that there was no need of consultations on that account; and though the executive part of justice is given up in the treaties he mentions, yet I always understood,* that the honourable Company were looked upon in the same light as *Sujah al Dowlah*; and their Chief, their representative, who had a superior power over those that resided in those Courts, and could call any of them to an account for mal-administration, by a proper representation of the case to either the King or the Rajah; and in this manner I have always acted, referring any matter of complaint to those residing in those courts: or if I have inquired into any complaints, it has been in their presence, and any fines, or * *chouts*, have always been paid, to which-ever court the cause belonged.

Mr. *Bolts* mentions he was on the point of paying me a compliment (I suppose he means by releasing and sending the merchant to me) had not my unexpected, unprovoked, *&c.* note come to him. My first note was sent to

* A fourth part of the sums judicially decreed.

him

him about nine in the morning, and my laſt about one in the afternoon. My reaſon for ordering his ſeapoys away was, that he ſhould not have it in his power to confine any one elſe through their means, as I was informed the merchant was kept a priſoner at their guard, at the Gate-way. I ſhall never have any objection to Mr. *Bolts*'s having a guard at his gate, as long as he makes a proper uſe of them.

It is alſo very ſtrange, that the clamours of the inhabitants, on account of the oppreſſions they labour under, *ſhould juſt ſpring up on the arrival of Mr.* Bolts. I muſt beg leave, if Mr. *Graham* is in *Calcutta*, to call on him, on this occaſion, that during his ſtay at *Banáras*, whether he ever heard of theſe clamours? Mr. *Graham* left *Banáras* a ſhort time before Mr. *Bolts*'s arrival. Mr. *Bolts* lived * with me from the time of his arrival to the 7th *Auguſt*, and never mentioned a word of this kind to me; nay, on the contrary, *he told me he had made inquiries on his arrival, and found that every one he converſed with was well pleaſed with the* Engliſh *Government.* This ſilence of Mr. *Bolts* I muſt, therefore, look on as unjuſt, or very unfriendly. If he thought me concerned in any oppreſſion of the inhabitants, he ought, in duty to his employers, to have made it known to you. Or if my Banyan was only concerned, he certainly ought to have acquainted me of it, being himſelf ſo great a hater of oppreſſions. However, I am to requeſt you, Gentlemen, will call upon him to prove theſe aſſertions, as I now do; and what thoſe flagitious and corrupt affairs are, that have been tranſacted at my Banyan's Durbar?

Regarding the mint, I beg leave to tranſmit you a copy of ſome paragraphs relating to my procuring it, and my reaſons, *from a letter I wrote Lord* Clive, *acquainting his lordſhip of it, in the month of* June; and though his Majeſty promiſed the renting of it to me at *Chunar*, in *February*, it was not till the end of *March* that the Sunnud arrived; as you will ſee from *my letters to* Shetabroy, *extracted by Mr.* Bolts *from my private correſpondence; which Mr.* Bolts *received from my brother, through an act of inattention of my brother's, he not imagining Mr.* Bolts *would do ſo ſhameleſs an act, my public and private letters being then in one book.*

The other places mentioned in the letters, the farmers of them for ſome time were not ſatisfied to pay their rents to the King, *underſtanding the whole country belonged to the* Engliſh; and being neighbours of *Bulwantſing*'s, were willing to be under the ſame government. They all now pay their revenues regularly to the King's Collectors, though the *Azemgur*-Rajah was compelled to it through fear of our ſeapoys, whom the † Tahſildar had with him on that occaſion. Both *Moneer al Dowlah* and *Shetabroy* (the latter acted at the requeſt of the former and by the King's deſire) deſired me to ſettle with the different Zemindars, in order that the King might be no loſer in his revenue.

* The writer, on his arrival, being unprovided with a houſe, the Rajah *Bulwantſing*'s town-houſe at *Banáras* was aſſigned for his reſidence, as ſecond of the factory. After it was fitted up for him, it was lent to the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah*, while he ſtayed at that city, on his interview with Lord *Clive*. During this period the writer had, from neceſſity, lived with Mr. *Marriott*.

† A collector of the revenues.

Before

Before I end theſe remarks, I muſt acquaint you, that Mr. *Bolts requeſted I would let him have a ſhare in the profits of the mint, and on my refuſing it, he ſaid he would acquaint the Board of my holding it:* this was ſoon after his arrival. What have been his reaſons for deferring it ſo long, I cannot imagine.

I am, with reſpect,

GENTLEMEN,

Banâras, Your moſt obedient ſervant,

the Auguſt 1765. (Signed) RANDOLPH MARRIOTT."

Paragraph of a Letter from Mr. Randolph Marriott *to Lord* Clive. *Dated at* Banáras *in* June 1765.

"SOON after my arrival in camp, with Major *Monro*, *Moneer al Dowlah* brought a paper to the Major and myſelf in the King's name, earneſtly deſiring us to ſign it; the purport of which was, to give back to the King the management and profit of the mint in this city, and alſo the appointment and profits of the Cutwâl of the city, which, in his Sunnud to the Company, he had before given up to them, being included in *Bulwantſing*'s Zemindary. *Moneer al Dowlah* urged, *the King had little or no authority*, but that the giving up theſe places to him would increaſe it very much; and likewiſe, *that in all his dominions he had not one mint.* After much converſation with *Moneer al Dowlah*, to get him to relinquiſh his requeſt, and urging it was contrary to the Sunnud given the Company, he ſtill perſiſted, and made a point of it; and we at laſt conſented and ſigned the paper, having before learnt that the revenue of the mint was about 50,000 rupees a year, and that of the Cutwâlly 1200 rupees a year. There was a clauſe alſo added, that the Cutwâl ſhould be a perſon approved of by the Chief.

After my return from *Illahabad* to *Chunar*, to the King, I made a requeſt to him to rent the mint of him at the rate any body elſe would, and he obligingly granted me the rent of it for 30,000 rupees a year. By theſe means *the Company may coin what money they have occaſion for, without the trouble we have experienced at the* Patna *and* Dacca-factories, and I myſelf ſhall be a gainer alſo."

IN CONSEQUENCE of Mr. *Marriott*'s repeated calls upon the writer for proofs of what he had aſſerted, it was agreed to hold Conſultations, to examine fairly into the facts. The Reader will pleaſe to obſerve, that the regiſters of the tranſactions of the Councils, both at the Preſidency and ſubordinate factories, are termed *Conſultations.* In the intervals between theſe examinations, other letters alſo paſſed, all which, together with the official proceedings, appear in the order of their dates, as follow.

NUM. X.

" At a Conſultation held at *Banáras*, the 13th *Auguſt* 1765.

Preſent, *Randolph Marriott*, Eſq; Chief,
Mr. *William Bolts*, Second.

Mr. *Bolts* begs leave to make the following minute:

Mr. *Bolts*'s minute.

IN order more effectually to put a ſtop to the preſent irregularities and to undeceive the inhabitants who entertain very erroneous and pernicious notions of the power and authority of *Durgachurn Metre*, Mr. *Bolts* requeſts that a publication, by beat of *tomtom*, be made throughout the city, to the following purport: " That complaints or cauſes of any kind are not to be decided by *Durgachurn Metre*, or any other Banyan whomſoever, who have no authority therein; but that all buſineſs belonging to the factory muſt be carried ſolely to the Chief and Council, who alone will determine upon every thing aſſembled in Council, and nothing independently of one another."

Mr. *Marriott*'s Remark.

Mr. *Marriott* begs leave to remark, that he ſhall have no objection to the publication of what Mr. *Bolts* mentions in the above minute, provided he will prove what he alleges."

" At a Conſultation held at *Banáras*, the 14th *Auguſt* 1765.

Preſent, *Randolph Marriott*, Eſq; Chief,
Mr. *William Bolts*, Second.

Mr. *Bolts* having peruſed a petition delivered by *Sadoololl* to Mr. *Marriott*, and deſiring that the facts therein repreſented may be examined into, the concerned were accordingly ſummoned, and the following were the examinations.

MELCOMB PHILIP, an *Armenian* ſervant to Mr. *Bolts*, being queſtioned,

Whether *Sadoololl* had ever ſent to him about his (*Sadoololl*'s) houſe?

Says, that *Sadoololl* did ſend a ſervant to him the day after his arrival from *Patna*, informing him, that he had no place to live in, and deſiring a room in the houſe. *Melcomb* ſent word, in anſwer, that as the houſe was his own, he might by all means come and live with him in it: and that he was at the ſame time told, that *Sadoololl* had declared, that as the inhabitants, round about, were ſatisfied with his living in the neighbourhood, he had no intentions of turning him out of the houſe.

OMICHUND,

OMICHUND, a merchant, declares that he was preſent when the affair of the houſe was agreed upon between *Melcomb* and the petitioner, (*Sadoololl*'s Gomaſtah) named *Heecharam*, about a month and a half ago; and that when *Melcomb* was for paying the hire, he (*Heecharam*) ſaid, that never any hire had been taken from any perſons that had lived there, he not having any orders for it.

ABDUL WAHED, a ſervant of Mr. *Bolts*'s, ſays, that when he went to one of *Sadoololl*'s Gomaſtahs, named *Doolichund*, to hire the houſe in queſtion, offering hire; that the Gomaſtah ſaid he muſt have a couple of days to get the people and things out which were there, and to look out for another houſe for them.

GAZEAH, a *mally* (or gardener) to *Sadoololl*'s Gomaſtah *Heecharam*, declares, that he was only ſent by *Melcomb* to call *Sadoololl*'s Gomaſtah, *Heecharam*, to ſettle the hire of the houſe, and that he accordingly brought him; but what afterwards paſſed, he knows not, only that the ſaid Gomaſtah frequently came, and brought *Melcomb* mangoes and ſweetmeats.

SADOOLOLL, the petitioner, being called and queſtioned, concerning the aſſertions he makes in his petition, "that the *Armenian Melcomb* had ſent no anſwer, when he, *Sadoololl*, ſent to him about the houſe,"

Now declares, that the *Armenian* did ſend him an anſwer, deſiring he would come and live with him.

And being aſked the reaſon of his writing a falſity?

Declares, it was a miſtake.

Sadoololl ſays, in his petition, Mr. *Bolts* refuſed to accept a *Hazir-zamin* or ſecurity-bond, for appearance, and that ſundry merchants offered themſelves, and being aſked who they were?

Says, *Chutturbugedaſs*, *Monoſhaby*, *Boidenaut Pundit*, and *Munſaram*.

And being aſked, how he knew Mr. *Bolts* refuſed to accept of them as ſecurities for his appearance?

Says, theſe four merchants told me ſo.

RAMSONCORE CHATTORGEE, Mr. *Bolts*'s Banyan, being called, was aſked, Was you preſent when the merchants offered to be ſecurity for *Sadoololl*, and what did you hear?

He ſays, the merchants offered to be ſecurity for his, *Sadoololl*'s, appearance; but when it was required of them to give a writing accordingly, they refuſed; giving for reaſon, they might equally as well pay the money.

Chutturbugedaſs, *Monoſhaby*, *Boidenaut Pundit*, and *Munſaram*, the four merchants, being ſummoned, were queſtioned, what paſſed concerning the affair of the *Hazir-zamin*, or ſecurity for appearance, at Mr. *Bolts*'s houſe?

They all declared they offered to be ſecurity for appearance before the *Armenian*.

Being aſked, if any thing paſſed regarding the *Hazir-zamin* before Mr. *Bolts*?

They all ſay they do not remember.

Being aſked, whether the *Armenian* agreed to take their ſecurity, by word of mouth, or whether he wanted it under their hands?

They anſwered, nothing about the writing paſſed with the *Armenian*. They farther ſay, it was after Mr. *Bolts* was gone out; and that the *Armenian* told them, that had Mr. *Bolts* been at home, he would have repreſented it, and it might have been done.

Being aſked, whether Mr. *Bolts* declared to them, that as he acted as a principal in this affair, he did not mean to ſettle it himſelf, and *whether he did not offer it to their arbitration?*

They anſwered, yes: and that Mr. *Bolts* ſhewed them a copy of the bond.

Being aſked, whether they told *Sadoololl*, that Mr. *Bolts* had refuſed to accept them as *Hazir-zamins?*

They declare they did not, but only told him that they offered it to the *Armenian*, but not in writing; which might have been done had Mr. *Bolts* been at home.

SADOOLOLL being aſked, who wrote your petition to the Governor?

Anſwered, the Munſhy of *Boidenaut-Pundit*, named *Sahebroy*.

SAHEBROY being aſked, if he wrote the petition?

Anſwered, yes.

Being aſked, whether, or not, in the original petition he wrote on the part of *Sadoololl*, there was any mention of the month of *Auguſt?* Which queſtion Mr. *Bolts* deſires may be put to him, as in the copy of the petition which Mr. *Bolts* ſaw, "*Auguſt*" was mentioned:

He anſwered, no.

Being aſked, where he ſat when he wrote the petition?

He anſwered, *in a room at Mr.* Marriott's *houſe.*

Being aſked, who told him the purport of what to write?

He anſwered, *Sadoololl:* and that he wrote the form firſt at his own houſe, and fair at Mr. *Marriott*'s.

Being aſked, on what day the petition was written?

Anſwered, *on the day before yeſterday*, being the 24th of the month *Suffer.*

Being aſked, who was with him when he wrote the petition?

Anſwered, Mr. *Marriott*'s Munſhy, *Sadoololl*, and a Banyan.

(Signed) RANDOLPH MARRIOTT,
WILLIAM BOLTS."

The next tranſaction relative to this affair was the Writer's letter to the Board, in anſwer to Mr. *Marriott*'s laſt, as follows.

NUM. XI.

" *To the Worſhipful* William Brightweil Sumner, *Eſq*; *and the Gentlemen of Council at* Fort William.

Worſhipful Sir and Sirs,

I AM ſorry the miſrepreſentations contained in Mr. *Marriott*'s letter to your Honourable Board, dated the — *Auguſt*, which I will call his replication, in anſwer to mine of the 12th, obliges me ſtill to encroach upon your valuable time by another addreſs.

A great part of his ſaid replication will, I hope, appear ſufficiently anſwered by my former addreſs, and by the copies of the notes which paſſed between us, as already tranſmitted to your Honourable Board.

In the Merchant's petition, *dated the 12th Auguſt*, which Mr. *Marriott* ſent down with his letter, you, Gentlemen, will perceive there is the affair of a houſe introduced. This is a houſe belonging to the petitioner, *Sadoololl*, which an *Armenian* ſervant of mine has occupied for ſome time; having had the uſe of it from the petitioner's gomaſtah, during his maſter's abſence. The introduction of that matter ſeems, from the tenor of the petition, to have been a *dernier reſſort*, in queſt of ſubject for complaint; which has, however, proved ineffectual, as will appear from the examination tranſmitted herewith, which, at my requeſt, was yeſterday made before Mr. *Marriott*, wherein *the aſſertions made in the petition are proved to be contrary to truth, and the very petitioner ſtands ſelf-convicted of falſhood.*

It appears needleſs, after what has been ſaid in my former addreſs, to reply to what Mr. *Marriott* alleges as diſobedience of the orders of the Board, this being an eſtabliſhment without a precedent: on the firſt appointment of which, by the orders of your Honourable Board, the Chief was allowed independent powers only in caſes of private inſtructions concerning treaties with the King, *Sujah al Dowlah*, *&c.* and not in tranſactions which may be ſaid to originate within the factory-walls. In theſe caſes his tranſacting any public buſineſs without conſulting me, as has always been the caſe, is very improper; and an attempt to do as he does ſeemed the only method to make him do as he ought. I wiſh it may have the deſired effect; for in the preſent ſituation of this factory, the Council are intirely incapacitated from being any way ſerviceable to the affairs of the Honourable Company, or the Public; and muſt continue ſo, unleſs very material alterations are made: which, I hope, will be eſteemed to merit the ſerious conſideration of your Honourable Board.

It likewiſe appears equally as needleſs to animadvert upon what Mr. *Marriott*, in his replication, mentions " *he has always underſtood*, *&c.*" where he makes a comparative eſtimation of the rights or prerogatives of the Honourable Company, *Sujah al Dowlah*, and the Chief of *Banâras*, *becauſe the right in queſtion*, *which* Sujah al Dowlah *always reſerved to himſelf*, *has been publicly given up.*

In anſwer to the next paragraph of Mr. *Marriott*'s replication, I wiſh Mr. *Graham* may be in *Calcutta*, to be called upon on this occaſion, as Mr. *Mar-*

riott requeſts; as I am convinced, that during his ſtay he had many proofs of the bad effects of the authority which *Durgachurn Metre* has abuſively uſurped. It is not at all extraordinary, if ſpecious ſpeeches concerning "*the Engliſh* "*Government*" (by which I imagine Mr. *Marriott* means his own and *Durgachurn*'s tranſactions) were made me on my arrival, while at Mr. *Marriott*'s houſe, where none durſt approach me but the dependants of *Durgachurn Metre*. It has been different ſince I have had a houſe of my own. Silence was neceſſary till I could convince myſelf of the truth of what I heard; which I ſhould certainly have repreſented to Mr. *Marriott*, and have endeavoured to have got redreſſed in the moſt amicable manner, had I not been thus publicly attacked. Mr. *Marriott* ſhall have every ſatisfaction he can require, regarding the proofs. In the mean time, to convince your Honourable Board, that Mr. *Marriott* protects and authorizes his Banyan, the following is a minute I lately made, to which he diſſents, *viz.*

"In order more effectually to put a ſtop to the preſent irregularities, and "to undeceive the inhabitants, who entertain very erroneous and pernicious "notions of the power and authority of *Durgachurn Metre*, Mr. *Bolts* requeſts, "that a publication, by beat of *tomtom*, be made throughout the city, to the "following purport: "That complaints, or cauſes of any kind, are not to be "decided by *Durgachurn Metre*, or any other Banyan whomſoever, who have "no authority therein: but that all buſineſs belonging to the factory muſt "be carried ſolely to the Chief and Council, who alone will determine upon "every thing aſſembled in Council, and nothing independently of one an-"other."

I therefore requeſt of you, Worſhipful Sir and Sirs, to determine concerning the propriety of this publication.

There now remain only two miſrepreſentations in Mr. *Marriott*'s replication which require to be cleared up, and this I ſhall endeavour to do, by the plaineſt relation of the facts as they happened.

When I firſt arrived, I applied for a ſight of the book of Mr. *Marriott*'s *public correſpondence*. Accordingly Mr. *Marriott*'s younger * brother brought me one, in which there was no diſtinction of public from private, nor any letters marked or ſpecified to me as a prohibition to read them; neither had I any reaſon, or the leaſt intimation given me, to think thoſe letters to *Shetabroy*, *&c.* were *intended to be kept a ſecret*, from the manner in which the book was given me. In order to make myſelf acquainted with the ſtate of public affairs in theſe parts, I made memorandums from many letters, and thoſe to *Shetabroy*, *&c.* I copied at length; but not with any bad deſign, as I imagined, at that time, the affair of the mint would have been repreſented in an amicable joint-addreſs from this factory to the Board, requeſting it as an indulgence to the factory.

It is true, I wanted a ſhare in the profits of the mint: and I ſtill lay claim to that ſhare which, as a partner, will become my due, in caſe it be given up on the part of the Company, in conſequence of certain articles of partnerſhip ſubſiſting between Mr. *Marriott* and myſelf. *It was only on thoſe terms I demanded a ſhare*, declaring at the ſame time to Mr. *Marriott*, that it ought to

* Writer to the Factory.

be referred to the Board. If I have deferred mentioning it, it has been from good-nature, and not chuſing to have diſputes with Mr. *Marriott*, while I lived at his houſe.

I am, with great reſpect,
Worſhipful Sir and Sirs,
Your moſt obedient ſervant,
(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS."

Banáras,
the 15th Aug. 1765.

NUM. XII.

"*To* William Brightwell Sumner, *Eſq*; *and the Gentlemen of Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I MUST requeſt to make a few remarks on this laſt letter of Mr. *Bolts*, and the examination of the different Merchants. Though ſeveral parts of the petition are falſe, yet the main part you will find is * true, which appears from the evidence of the four Merchants, who offered themſelves ſecurity for the appearance of *Sadoololl*, but their ſecurity was not accepted.

And regarding the purport of Mr. *Bolts*'s minute, I have replied to it, that I ſhall have no objection to it's being publiſhed, when he can prove the aſſertions he has alleged againſt my Banyan. *And to that of his taking extracts from my † private correſpondence*, I muſt obſerve, that if he thought it was

* *Sadoololl* ſays, *he was told* by the four Merchants, that Mr. *Bolts* refuſed to accept their ſecurity for his appearance.

The four Merchants declare *they did not tell Sadoololl* ſo; but only that they offered their ſecurity (but not in writing) to the *Armenian*, Mr. *Bolts* being gone out. That nothing paſſed with the *Armenian* about the ſecurity in writing; but they *did not remember* if any thing paſſed regarding this ſecurity before Mr. *Bolts*.

Ramſoncore Chattorgee declares clearly, that they refuſed giving the ſecurity in writing, alleging for reaſon, that they might equally as well pay the money. This being the ſum of the evidence on this fact, the diſcernment of the Reader will convince him that Mr. *Marriott*'s concluſion, here referred to, was not well founded. See their examinations, C. Num. X.

† With reſpect to the letters laid by the Writer before the Board, from Mr. *Marriott*'s book of *Perſian* correſpondence, they related to a variety of buſineſs of the moſt public nature, as will clearly appear on reference thereto, in Pages 307 and 308. But it muſt be remarked, that from the inſtitutions in the Company's ſervice, the Chief of a ſubordinate factory could have no *private* correſpondence with the officers of the country-government, relative to the *public* office of the mint. And if the Writer could demand the whole book as his right, it muſt be very immaterial, whether he took partial extracts, copied particular letters, or tranſcribed the whole. The candid Reader is earneſtly requeſted to peruſe with attention the letters of Mr. *Marriott* and the Writer on this ſubject; becauſe the latter has good grounds for believing, that thoſe who had made themſelves his enemies have been very aſſiduous in miſrepreſenting this tranſaction, in order to prejudice him in the opinions of many worthy and reſpectable people, by endeavouring to infuſe a belief, either that he had treacherouſly obtained a gentleman's papers, in order to make a baſe uſe of them, or had expoſed letters which had been intruſted to him in confidence: crimes that he is innocent of, and which he has ever held in the higheſt deteſtation.

my

my public correſpondence, he had no occaſion to take out *particular letters, as he could demand the peruſal of them at any time.*

I am, with reſpect,

GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

Banáras,
the 15th Aug. 1765. (Signed) RANDOLPH MARRIOTT."

It may be neceſſary here to inform the Reader, that the Company's books of account are kept in rupees, called *current*; which is only an ideal denomination, eſtabliſhed by the Company for the conveniency of reducing the different ſpecies of rupees, of which there is a great variety, to one nominal ſtandard. The revenues at *Banáras* were received from the Rajah *Bulwantſing*, in the rupees called *Banáras-ſunotts*, or *ghatſons*, a ſpecies eſtimated, in the Company's accounts, nine *per cent.* ſuperior in value to current rupees; but which the natives exchanged at from 105 to 107 viziery rupees for 100 ghatſons. The viziery rupees were at that time paſſed in the Company's accounts as arcots, at eight *per cent.* better than current, although, upon an aſſay made of theſe vizieries, at *Patna*, they appeared to be intrinſically worth no leſs than fourteen *per cent.* ſhort of *Patna* ſunotts: which laſt were uſually entered in the Company's books at nine and a quarter *per cent.* better than current. But to render this matter more intelligible, the following ſhort table will exhibit, at one view, the rates of eſtimating thoſe various ſpecies, in the Company's accounts, at that period:

100 *Banáras* ſunotts, or ghatſons, equal to . .	109 current rupees.
100 vizieries	108
100 arcots, the ſpecies in which the troops were paid,	ditto
100 *Patna* ſunotts	109¼.

Beſides the revenues received at *Banáras*, large remittances were likewiſe ſent from the Company's factories at *Coſſimbazar* and *Patna*, for the payment of the brigade then at *Illahabad*, and other military expences. But the Writer obſerved, from the accounts of the Treaſury, which was likewiſe under the management of the Banyan *Durgachurn Metre*, that the payments to the military paymaſter, and other principal diſburſements, were made or charged in the baſe ſpecies called viziery.

But although the above-mentioned eſtimations were too ideal to form an exact computation by, yet the *data* which thoſe facts afforded were ſufficient to evince; that if the *Banáras*, *Coſſimbazar*, and *Patna* rupees were received in tale, at the eſtabliſhed *batta*, (or exchange) recoined into vizieries, and then iſſued at eight *per cent.* on current, there muſt ariſe a conſiderable profit on the tale; which, calculated on the very large ſums received and iſſued, would amount to an immenſe ſum.

When the Writer firſt applied to Mr. *Marriott* on the ſubjects of the badneſs of the rupees iſſued, and the profit ariſing on the recoinage of the Company's money, which he no-where found brought to the Company's credit, that

that gentleman appeared ignorant of the facts; but when, on farther inquiry, he diſcovered his error, he wrote the following letter to the Preſidency at *Calcutta*, to which Lord *Clive* had then returned.

NUM. XIII.

" *To the Right Honourable Lord* Clive, *Preſident and Governor, and the Council of* Fort William.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

ON my applying ſome time ago to Mr. *Bolts*, to deſire him to bring the people that complained againſt my Banyan, in order that they might be examined, and if he knew any of the inhabitants that had any complaints againſt me, to inform me, and they ſhould be ſummoned likewiſe; he replied, he propoſed deferring the examination of the Banyan until the Board's orders were known, or I conſented to the publication of his former minute: and that regarding myſelf, he had nothing farther to offer than what he had already mentioned in his letters to the Board; except, that the profits which had accrued on the recoinage of the Company's money, muſt be refunded and brought to their credit; and that there were complaints of the badneſs of the rupees that had iſſued from the mint, and which he propoſed to aſſay. To this anſwer of Mr. *Bolts*'s I replied, that when I ſaw any convincing proofs of the Banyan's bad behaviour, I ſhould have no objection to the minute being publiſhed, and repeated my requeſt regarding his bringing the complainants; and that regarding the baſeneſs of the metal of the rupees, I never had had any complaints made to me of it, or I ſhould immediately have redreſſed it; and that I knew of nothing I was indebted to the Company, they *having had full credit for each month's revenues that I had received, in* Banáras *ſunott rupees, the ſpecie I had given the Rajah receipts for each* * kiſt; and that if at any time the Rajah's Shroffs had not that ſpecie by them, to pay the drafts, they might have exchanged or recoined with my people at the mint; and that any advantage of exchange or recoinage, I ſuppoſed I had received.

In this light, my Lord and Gentlemen, I then underſtood it was; but on farther inquiry I have ſince learned, that 304,875 rupees, that were the Company's, have been reſtamped and recoined; and that I have had credit for a gain thereon given me in the mint accounts, amounting to current rupees 7,536—2—0, which, after deducting current rupees 999—5—0 for eleven days revenues paid the King, allowing that time for the above ſum being reſtamped and recoined, the balance, being current rupees 6,536—13—0, if you order it, I ſhall pay the ſame into the Company's caſh. I am,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

Banáras, the 1ſt Oct. 1765. (Signed) RANDOLPH MARRIOTT."

* *Kiſt* is a ſtipulated payment.

" The

" The incloſed is a copy of the particulars.

Sunott rupees reſtamped			190,000 . 0 . 0
	Annas. Gundas. Cowries.		
Deduct charges, mint 2 — 2 — 2 *per cent.*			252 . 0 . 0
			189,748 . 0 . 0
Batta 11 *per cent.*			20,872 . 5 . 0
Current rupees			210,620 . 5 . 0
Sunott rupees		190,000 . 0 . 0	
Batta 9 *per cent.*		17,100 . 0 . 0	
			207,100 . 0 . 0
			3,520 . 5 . 0
Sunott rupees recoined		114,875 . 0 . 0	
One *per cent.* gain in weight		1,148 . 12 . 0	
		116,023 . 12 . 0	
Alloy, rupees 3 . 12 . 0 *per cent.*		4,350 . 15 . 0	
Viziery rupees		120,374 . 11 . 0	
Deduct charges in recoinage			
	Annas. Pice.		
Loſs in melting 4 — 3 *per cent.*	391 . 11 . 0		
Workmen . 4 — 0 ditto .	300 . 0 . 0		
Copper	98 . 0 . 0		
		717 . 11 . 0	
		119,657 . 0 . 0	
Batta 8 *per cent.*		9,572 . 9 . 0	
Current rupees		129,229 . 9 . 0	
Sunott rupees	114,875 . 0 . 0		
Batta 9 *per cent.*	10,338 . 12 . 9		
		125,213 . 12 . 0	
			4,015 . 13 . 0
Current rupees			7,536 . 2 . 0
King's duties for eleven days, at 2500 *per* month, ſunott rupees		917 . 0 . 0	
Batta 9 *per cent.*		82 . 5 . 0	
			999 . 5 . 0
Current rupees			6,536 . 13 . 0

"

The

The Right Honourable the Preſident and Council of *Calcutta* were not pleaſed to give their ſentiments relative to the publication which the Writer had propoſed to have been made through the city of *Banáras*, and which he had referred to them; nor did they condeſcend to take any notice of Mr. *Marriott*'s or the Writer's letters, farther than by ordering both to repair to *Calcutta*, and deliver over the charge of the factory to Mr. *Iſaac Sage*, at that time Military Paymaſter: though at any other period the ſubjects of thoſe letters would have been deemed of the moſt material conſequence to the affairs of the Company.

It therefore became neceſſary for the Writer to give Mr. *Marriott* the ſatisfaction he had required, relative to the proofs of the other allegations contained in his letters to the Preſidency at *Calcutta*. For this purpoſe it was agreed to continue the Conſultations, at which Mr. *Iſaac Sage* ſhould be preſent. The following are the whole proceedings which were held on that occaſion, before Mr. *Marriott* and the Writer were obliged to repair to *Calcutta*, in obedience to the orders of the Board.

NUM. XIV.

At a Conſultation held at *Banáras*, the 25*th Oct.* 1765,

Preſent, *Randolph Marriott*, Eſq; Chief,
Mr. *William Bolts*,——— Second, and
Mr. *Iſaac Sage*.

MR. *Marriott* having deſired that an inquiry might be made (in preſence of Mr. *Sage*) into any bad conduct Mr. *Marriott* or his Banyan may have been guilty of; and Mr. *Bolts* being deſired to lay before them any information he may be furniſhed with relative thereto; accordingly,

Mr. *Bolts* acquaints Meſſrs. *Marriott* and *Sage* of his having received an information from *Muraad Ally*, alias *Curmun Lung*; wherein the Banyans of Mr. *Marriott* are accuſed of having received bribes, in order to transfer from the proper owners, and paſs under fictitious names, ſundry ſums compoſing the article of * *Kiraat*, for which there has been a † deduction allowed on the part of the Honourable Company to *Bulwantſing*. The informant complains of having been thereby defrauded of his juſt due, of three rupees *per* day *Kiraat*, which, he ſays, one *Burcuttullah* has unjuſtly appropriated to himſelf, by the fraudulent connivance of Mr. *Marriott*'s Banyans; and that having

* *Kiraat*. An allowance for charitable purpoſes.

† In the adjuſtment with the Rajah *Bulwantſing*, the various heads of charity that were eſteemed right, were allowed as juſt deductions from the public revenue. From the little which appears in theſe papers, the Reader may form a tolerable idea of the nature of the jagueers and charities that have been annually deducted from the Company's revenue.

gone to *Durgachurn*'s houſe, to get himſelf redreſſed, *Durgachurn's* * *Naib*, *Radhachurn*, abuſed him and ordered him to be turned out; and ſeeing he thus ran the riſque of being abuſed and treated with rudeneſs, he never could approach the Chief.

From the information of the ſaid *Muraad Ally*, it likewiſe appears, that the ſaid *Burcuttullah* has obtained ſix thouſand and fifty rupees as an annual allowance, in the ſame manner, under the fictitious names of *Noorulhoodah* and *Wullydaad*; and that for obtaining the ſaid falſe paſſes, to the prejudice of the honourable Company, he has paid to *Durgachurn*'s brother-in-law, the *Munſhy Bobhun*, one thouſand rupees, which are ſaid to have been paid, on the part of *Burcuttullah*, by *Golaum Haffez*, in preſence of *Wully* and the ſaid *Burcuttullah*.

Mr. *Bolts* likewiſe lays before the board the man's perſonal declaration and petition.

Ordered, They be tranſlated, and entered after theſe proceedings.

MURAAD ALLY being called, and ſworn to anſwer to the truth of the queſtions which ſhould be aſked him, was queſtioned as follows:

Q. Why did you not complain to the chief at firſt?

A. Becauſe I ſaw the Banyan write out the † *Chitts*, and tranſact this buſineſs.

Q. When you was injured by the Banyan, why did you not apply to the chief?

A. For fear of being abuſed again, as I had been by the Banyan.

Q. Did you, or did you not know, whether other people made complaints to the chief, when they had cauſe?

A. Yes; but for fear of the Banyan, I durſt not approach.

RADHACHURN being then called, was queſtioned as follows:

Q. What was your reaſon for your treatment of the man above-mentioned?

A. My reaſon was, that the *Rajah's Vakeel*, *Sheolall*, told me, that the deponent *was not the true* Muraad Ally, but it was another of that name who received the charity, and who had always received it from the *Rajah*. This was my reaſon for turning him away.

RAHMUT ALLY being then called, and ſworn to anſwer to the truth of all ſuch queſtions as ſhould be aſked him, was queſtioned as follows:

Q. Did you relate, at the houſe of *Nowaz ô Deen*, any thing regarding the payment of a ſum of money to the *Munſhy Bobhun*, as related in the information of *Muraad Ally*?

A. What I had heard I did relate; which was, that one thouſand rupees were to be given to *Maharajah*.

Q. Who do you mean by *Maharajah*?

A. Bulwantſing.

MAHOMMED ULLA (*Rahmut Ally*'s brother) being called, and ſworn to anſwer to the truth of all ſuch queſtions as ſhould be aſked him, was interrogated as follows:

* A Deputy.

† The notes or orders for the monthly payments of the allowances for charity.

Q. Do you know any thing regarding the payment, or the agreement to pay a ſum of money to *Bobhun Munſhy*, relating to the paſſing the *Kiraat-Chitt* in queſtion?

A. I know no more than that I myſelf paid two *per cent.* on the amount of my own perwânah, to the *Munſhy*.

Q. What was your reaſon for paying two *per cent?*

A. It is cuſtomary, and what I uſed to give the Nabob's *Munſhy*.

Q. Was you preſent when one thouſand rupees were paid to the *Munſhy?*

A. No.

Tranſlation of the information of *Muraad Ally:*

The particular account of the perwânah, for three rupees *per* day, in the *Mahal* of *Havely Ghàzipore*, in the names of *Seyd Khadem Ally*, *Muraad Ally*, and *Shah Ally*, relations of *Moulby Tetar-odeen.*

" A perwânah with the ſeal of the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah Bahadre*, was given, and preſented to the Fowzdar *Fazzel Ally Khawn*, of *Ghazipore.* When he quitted the ſaid Fowzdary, and the ſaid Fowzdary was given to *Bulwantſing*, we obtained a confirmation of the ſaid perwânah, and preſented it to *Bulwantſing*, whoſe *Mutſeddees* required that it ſhould be authenticated by * *Bene Bahadre.* I therefore went to *Bene Bahadre*, whoſe *Mutſeddees* required the Nabob's perwânah, which I carried, and preſented to them at *Buxar.* The Nabob's perwânah I have; and the particulars of the trouble I had, on this occaſion, many ſubſtantial inhabitants of this city can teſtify. At this time the relations of *Fazzel Ally Khawn Maafidar*, *Burcutullah*, &c. have, by a convention with the *Mutſeddees*, and by force of money, obtained the original perwânah, which was in the names of *Khadem Ally*, *Muraad Ally*, and *Shah Ally*, to be changed into the name of *Muraad Ally*, and paſſed in the † *Waſil-Baky*; and the names of *Khadem Ally* and *Shah Ally* are omitted, and he takes the *Chitt* among the others of his own ‡ *Aſſamies.* I went to *Durgachurn*'s houſe to complain of this matter, and *Durgachurn's Naib*, *Radhachurn*, abuſed me, and ordered me to be put out: and as I ſaw the bad treatment I met with, I could not approach the chief.——And as *Burcutullah* has unjuſtly deprived me of my allowance, of three rupees *per* day, I am in hopes of having juſtice done me, as *Burcutullah* never before did receive any ſuch allowance.——There are many witneſſes to teſtify the truth of this affair."

The PETITION of *Muraad Ally*,

SHEWETH,

" THAT *Sheik Burcuttullah*, under the article " § *Altumghau, five thou-* " *ſand rupees, in the name of* Noorulhoodah *and others, and five hundred rupees*

* Miniſter to the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah.*

† In revenue matters; an account which ſets forth, at one view, the amount paid, and the balance forth-coming, under the various heads of collection.

‡ Dependants who are ſharers under the ſame grant.

§ Another head of charity, which deſcends to the heirs of the poſſeſſors.

"*under the head of* * Modutmaiſh," hath put in a falſe claim, and got a *Chitt* for the ſame; and in order to procure the ſaid *Chitt*, has given to *Durgachurn*'s brother, *Bobhun Munſhy*, one thouſand rupees, through the hands of *Golaum Haffez*, and *Burcuttullah* and *Mahommed Wully* accompanying them. And that this information *Rahmut-Ally*, brother of *Mahommed Ullah*, at the houſe of *Nowaz ô Deen*, before *Mirza Yeſſoof*, gave, and he himſelf heard. This is to the prejudice of the Company."

NUM. XV.

At a Conſultation held at *Banáras*, the 26th *October* 1765.

Preſent, *Randolph Marriot*, Eſq; Chief,
Mr. *William Bolts*,——Second, and
Mr. *Iſaac Sage*.

RAHMUT ALLY being again called, was queſtioned as follows:

Q. Who was preſent when you related that you had heard, that one thouſand rupees were to be given to *Maharajah?*

A. There were ſeveral people preſent; but I do not remember the names of any of them but *Muraad Ally* and *Mahommed Aſhruff*. *Mahommed Haffez* was the man who tranſacted the buſineſs; and I further heard, that five hundred rupees were to be given to *Durgachurn's Mutſeddees*.

Q. Who did you hear that from?

A. I do not remember.

N. B. Further inquiry into the affair of the preſents cannot be now made, as two evidences, *Haffez* and *Mirza Yeſſoof*, are not preſent.

MR. BOLTS informs Meſſrs. *Marriott* and *Sage*, that a long time ago he received information of the merchants having been ſummoned to Mr. *Marriott*'s houſe, and over-awed from the free exchange of their rupees in the *Bazar*; and that a merchant, who, for the convenience of his buſineſs, attempted to ſend ſome rupees in ſpecie into the country, without firſt exchanging them at Mr. *Marriott*'s mint-office, was put to trouble and expence on that account. In particular, one *Omichund*, a merchant of this city, informed him, and affirmed it to be notorious, that a merchant, named MUNSARAM, ſon of SAMLOLL, was diſpatching five hundred and odd rupees, with two hundred gold mohurs, into the country, (he believes to *Patna*) and that his (*Munſaram*'s) people, with the money, were ſtopped on the road by the people of *Biſhionaut*, on the part of *Durgachurn Metre*, Mr. *Marriott*'s Banyan. The rupees were ſeized, and embargoed for ſome days; and the owner was obliged to be at ſome expence at *Durgachurn's Durbar*, before he could

* Another head of charity, given to the lower orders of religious people.

get

get them releaſed. Mr. *Bolts* further ſays, that doubting the truth of this, he called *Munſaram*, and aſked him concerning the above affair; when he *(Munſaram)* declared it to be true, that his money, about five hundred and ſeventy-five rupees and two hundred gold mohurs, had been ſeized by *Durgachurn*'s people and embargoed, more or leſs, fifteen days, and that *he was obliged to pay one hundred and twenty-two rupees to procure the releaſement of his money.*

Mr. Marriott begs leave to remark, that *Munſaram* did not make the complaint to Mr. *Bolts* firſt; but was called by Mr. *Bolts* to make the complaint, on *Omichund*'s information.

Mr. Bolts, in anſwer to the above remark, ſays, that the merchant was only called by him to inquire into the truth of this oppreſſion. And that ſo great has been the ſway which *Durgachurn* has exerciſed, that, in conſequence of the before-mentioned tranſactions, the merchants have not; till lately, dared freely to exchange their rupees.

Mr. Marriott begs to know when this complaint was firſt made?

Mr. Bolts anſwers, to the beſt of his remembrance, between two and three months ago; but that he inquired of the merchant, *Munſaram*, into the truth of the ſeizure of the rupees, and his payment of one hundred and twenty-two rupees for the releaſement of his money, about three days ago.

Mr. Marriott begs leave to know, why Mr. *Bolts* did not acquaint him of it?

Mr. Bolts anſwers, becauſe he found it was needleſs; Mr. *Marriott* having refuſed to check his Banyan in theſe proceedings, and refuſing to have the publication made for which Mr. *Bolts* formerly minuted.

Mr. Marriott begs leave to remark, that this affair happened before the diſpute between him and Mr. *Bolts*.

Munsaram being called, was queſtioned as follows:

Q. Who was the money paid to?

A. To *Biſhionaut* and *Radhachurn*; and the money was given by my gomaſtah, *Ghaſeram*.

Bishionaut being called, was queſtioned,

Q. What was the reaſon of ſuch payment?

A. For duties.

Radhachurn being called, was aſked,

Q. What was the reaſon of ſuch payment?

A. For the expences of the peons, who ſtopt the money, as is the cuſtom in the mint, to prevent the ſhroffs from exporting money.

Mr. Marriott begs leave to remark, that the above tranſaction was not by his order, nor is it approved of by him, neither ever had he the leaſt information of any ſuch thing; and had the merchant ever complained to him, he would immediately have made him repay the money, and which he now orders to be done.

NUM. XVI.

At a Conſultation held at *Banáras*, the 30th *October* 1765.

Preſent, *Randolph Marriott*, Eſq; Chief,
Mr. *William Bolts*,——Second, and
Mr. *Iſaac Sage*.

MR. BOLTS deſires that DIARAM, the *Rajah's Aumeen*, may be called, and queſtioned concerning the information he has given regarding the bad conduct of the Banyans in queſtion; the purport of which is as follows:

That all the cauſes of his department, until lately, were wont to be received and tried by *Durgachurn Metre*, who uſed to decide thereon as he thought fit; and only made a tool of him, *Diaram*, by referring to him affairs of no conſequence. That he, *Durgachurn Metre*, had even preſumed to ſend orders to break open the *Rajah*'s ſeals, which were on the effects of one *Calliandaſs*, a bankrupt, without firſt obtaining the *Rajah*'s orders. That on complaints being made againſt the ſaid *Calliandaſs*, he had for ſome time abſconded; and that when he again appeared, he, *Calliandaſs*, was ſeized by *Durgachurn*'s people, and confined in his, *Durgachurn*'s houſe, about ten days. That he was afterwards let looſe, and the agreement which he, *Diaram*, heard had been made by *Calliandaſs*, at *Durgachurn's Durbar*, was, the payment of two thouſand rupees for his releaſement.

That in a cauſe of *Biſſemberdaſs*, plaintiff, againſt *Ramchund* and *Goculchund*, defendants, for 25,000 rupees, and which cauſe *Durgachurn Metre* had undertaken, the defendants' *Vakeel*, *Munſaram*, was ſeized and confined by him.

DULLOOBDASS, a merchant of this city, likewiſe informs Mr. *Bolts*, that in a cauſe in which he was defendant, and one *Beejruttun* plaintiff, which cauſe *Durgachurn* undertook to decide; the plaintiff wanted the defendant to ſign a certain paper. That he, the defendant, went to *Durgachurn*'s houſe to complain of this injuſtice, and that *Radhakriſnoroy*, in anſwer thereto, pulled out a paper, in which he ſaid, *Beejruttun* had agreed to give five hundred rupees when *Dulloobdaſs* ſhould be made to ſign the paper in queſtion, of which two hundred rupees were indorſed off, as paid: *Radhakriſnoroy* further intimating to *Dulloobdaſs*, that as *Beejruttun* had agreed to give five hundred rupees, he alſo muſt give ſomething, as *money made the law*.

FULTOOMUL likewiſe informs, That *Durgachurn Metre*'s brother, the *Munſhy Bobhun*, undertook to get the annual * *Malguzáry* ſettled for the zemindar of *Serinjah*, in conſideration of a ſum of money, which he wanted to receive from the zemindar's *Vakeel*, *Kiſſoreſing*, and that he, *Bobhun*, had actually received, from the ſaid *Kiſſoreſing*, four hundred rupees, more or leſs, in part of the ſaid bond.

* The neat revenue to be paid by the zemindar, or farmer, for the lands held by him.

MR.

Mr. Bolts alſo informs Meſſrs. *Marriott* and *Sage*, that the late *Cutwâl*, *Baſharut Ullah Khawn*, complained, That he had no kind of power, but that all the cauſes of his department had been always heard, or decided at *Durgachurn*'s. That he *(Baſharut Ullah)* had laid aſide his ſword and * *Catár*, to prevent his being provoked to ſome bad action againſt the † *Peons*, who continually inſulted him. That upon complaints againſt a woman for bad practices, in ſelling ſpirituous liquors at a ſhop in *Muniarſing*'s grounds, ſhe, with the liquor, was carried before *Durgachurn*, who ordered him, the *Cutwâl*, to plunder her houſe and chaſtize her. She was confined accordingly all night, and was to have paid a fine of fifty rupees; but the next day, in conſequence of the negociations of her *Vakeel*, *Bhedlee Brahmin*, at *Durgachurn's Durbar*, orders were again ſent, by *Durgachurn*, to releaſe her. That he, the *Cutwâl*, having repreſented the inſignificancy of his office, by theſe tranſactions, to one of *Durgachurn*'s father-in-law's brothers (either *Sookdeb* or *Anunderam)* he, the ſaid relation of *Durgachurn*'s, offered a propoſal of going halves with the *Cutwâl* in the fines and other perquiſites.

Fultoomul being called and ſworn, was queſtioned as follows:

Q. Do you know any thing of four hundred rupees being given to the *Munſhy Bobhun*, for the ſettling of the *Malguzary* of the zemindary of *Serinjah*, by *Kiſſoreſing Vakeel?*

A. I know that the money was given in part of a bond which I ſaw; the amount of which, to the beſt of my recollection, was between 900 and 1000 rupees; and in the bond was mentioned the condition of getting the *Malguzary* of *Serinjah* ſettled.

Bobhun Munshy being called, and queſtioned regarding the above accuſation,

Anſwers. I received four hundred and fifty rupees, which I hold in depoſit.

Q. Do you know any thing of the bond in queſtion?

A. The *Vakeel*, *Kiſſoreſing*, wrote a paper and brought it to me, and I refuſed receiving it; but told him, when the affair was ſettled I would leave it to him to give me what he pleaſed; and he then promiſed to give me one thouſand rupees: and as to the four hundred and fifty rupees which I have received, I have kept it a-part and never touched it.

Agreed we anſwer the board's letters of the 15th and 26th *Auguſt*, and 7th and 14th of *October*; and having rectified the ‡ *Buxey-Connah* accounts from *January* to *July*, incloſe them, and further inform the board, that agreeably to their orders, Mr. *Marriott* and Mr. *Bolts* will ſet out for *Calcutta* as ſoon as they are provided with boats, and leave the charge of the factory to Mr. *Sage*.

* A ſpecies of poignard, worn upon the ſtomach, ſtuck in the girdle.

† This means the armed meſſengers, who were employed by *Durgachurn Metre*.

‡ The department in which are kept the accounts of the ſalaries paid to the Company's ſervants is called the *Buxey-Connah*.

NUM. XVII.

At a Conſultation held at *Banâras*, the 31ſt *October* 1765.

Preſent, *Randolph Marriott*, Eſq; Chief,
Mr. *William Bolts*,——Second, and
Mr. *Iſaac Sage*.

DIARAM (the *Rajah Bulwantſing's Aumeen*) being called, is ſworn to anſwer to the truth of all ſuch queſtions as ſhall be aſked him.

Q. Is the relation which you made to Mr. *Bolts*, and which was now read over to you, true or not?

A. Yes.

Q. How do you know that *Calliandaſs* was ſeized by *Durgachurn*'s people, and confined in his houſe ten days, and afterwards releaſed on paying two thouſand rupees?

A. I heard it from the people in the *Bazar*.

Q. Do you know any of thoſe people you heard it from?

A. I do not remember; but after I had had Mr. *Marriott*'s orders to receive *Calliandaſs* to my *Cutcherry*, and ſettle the diſpute, and had accordingly taken him into cuſtody, *Durgachurn* ſent to me, in his own name, ſaying, That he, *Calliandaſs*, was not ſent to me to be confined, but that I muſt let him go, and ſettle his cauſe. I ſent for anſwer, That I could not releaſe him without ſecurity; to which he replied, very well.

Q. What have you to ſay regarding the cauſe in which *Biſſemberdaſs* is plaintiff, and *Ramchund* and *Goculchund* defendants?

A. It has been managed by *Durgachurn Metre*; neither have I known th deciſion, nor from whom I am to receive the cuſtomary fines.

Q. When did the above affair happen?

A. About eight months ago.

Q. Why did you not ſpeak to the Chief about it?

A. For fear.

Q. Why did you not complain to the *Rajah?*

A. Becauſe *Durgachurn* afterwards told me I ſhould receive the fine when the houſe was ſold.

Q. Is the houſe yet ſold?

A. I do not know.

MR. MARRIOTT begs leave to put the following queſtion:

Q. Did the Chief ever refuſe to hear any complaints you had to make?

A. No.

DURGACHURN METRE being then called, was queſtioned as follows:

Q. What have you to ſay to the before-mentioned accuſation of *Diaram*'s, which has been read to you?

A. Regarding the firſt part of the accuſation, I have heard ſeveral cauſes; and when both parties have come to me and not agreed by *my deciſion* I have ſent them to the *Cutwâl*, or *Aumeen*, whichever *Cutcherry* the cauſe belonged to, *agreeably to my maſter's orders*.

Q. Did you keep a regiſter of the cauſes?

A. No.

Q. Regarding the affair of *Calliandaſs*, did you ever ſend an order to *Diaram* to open the *Rajah*'s ſeals, without his permiſſion?

A. I did ſend word to *Diaram* to open the merchant's houſe, and take out papers and books, which his creditors told me were ſpoiling.

Mr. Bolts begs leave to put the following queſtion to Diaram:

Q. Did *Durgachurn* order, or tell you to releaſe any of the effects, excluſive of papers?

A. No, only to have the ſeals opened, that his papers might be taken out, that he might be able to ſettle his accounts with his creditors.

Durgachurn Metre being again called, was aſked,

Q. Did you ever give any order about confining *Calliandaſs* in your houſe ten days?

A. No; neither was he confined in *my houſe* at all.

Q. What do you ſay regarding the affair of *Biſſenberdaſs*?

A. There was a complaint made to my maſter by *Akbar Ally*, regarding the mortgage he had upon a houſe of *Biſſenberdaſs*'s, and which houſe was mortgaged to two other merchants. Theſe three agreed among themſelves, that when the houſe was ſold, each ſhould have his proportion, agreeably to their reſpective claims on *Biſſenberdaſs*; and they each gave a writing that they were ſatisfied.

N. B. As the inquiries into ſeveral of the foregoing informations cannot be finiſhed, on account of the abſence of the following evidences,

Mahommed Haffez,
Mahommed Aſhruff,
Mirza Yeſſoof, and
Dulloobdaſs,

Agreed, therefore, That we refer the finiſhing of thoſe inquiries to Mr. *Iſaac Sage*, as it is neceſſary that, in compliance with the board's orders, we immediately repair to *Calcutta*.

(Signed) RANDOLPH MARRIOTT,
WILLIAM BOLTS.

This was all that paſſed relative to theſe tranſactions at *Banáras*; for Mr. *Sage*, for whom the Reſidency at *Banáras* had been pre-determined, did not proſecute the inquiries.

NUM. XVIII.

COPY of the Proceedings of the Preſident and Select Committee at Calcutta, *on the 29th* October 1765.

Fort William, the 29th October 1765.

At a Select Committee, preſent,

The Right Honourable Lord *Clive*, Preſident,
William B. Sumner, Eſq;
Brigadier General *Carnac*, and
Harry Verelſt, Eſq;

The Proceedings of the 25th inſtant being wrote fair, were now read and approved.

THE Right Honourable the Preſident lays before the Committee another letter from *Sujah al Dowlah* received the 28th inſtant, wherein he expreſſes his apprehenſions, that a ſecret treaty is negociating between the King and *Marahtahs*, who amuſe him with promiſes of eſcorting him to *Dehly*, on condition of his Majeſty's ceding to them the countries of *Korah* and *Illahabad*.

Agreed, We ſend Colonel *Smith* an extract of the Vizier's letter, and deſire he will expoſtulate with the King on the weakneſs of his conduct; and, if neceſſary, aſſiſt *Sujah al Dowlah* with all his force to oppoſe any irruption of the enemy into his country; and that a paragraph to this effect be added to the letter to Colonel *Smith*, minuted in the laſt proceedings.

Sujah al Dowlah *complaining in the ſame letter, that the buſineſs of his government meets with great interruption from the gentlemen of the* Engliſh *factory at* Banáras,

Agreed, We write to Mr. *Marriott*, or, in his abſence, to Mr. *Sage*, who is directed to take charge of the factory, that it is our poſitive order he will not interfere, directly, or indirectly, with the affairs of government; but confine himſelf ſtrictly to the collection of the Tunkhaw-money, for which purpoſe ſolely his reſidence is continued at *Banáras*.

Having peruſed a letter from the Committee of Trade, deſiring leave to appoint a Secretary in the room of Mr. *Graham*, and agents to conduct the buſineſs of the ſociety in the different parts of the country,

Agreed, We write to them, that we entirely approve of their choice of Mr. *Lawrell* for ſecretary and accomptant. Alſo, that as they ſeem to think the buſineſs of the ſociety will require *European* agents, we conſent to their nominating perſons of *approved character*, who ſhall enter into ſuch engagements and reſtrictions as we may judge neceſſary for regulating their conduct,

and

and ſecuring the country from diſturbance, and the natives from injury and moleſtation.

We alſo conſent, that they appoint four *European* agents to build boats for the ſociety at *Nabob Gunge* and *Baker Gunge*, who ſhall enter into ſimilar engagements.

The Secretary having informed us of an application through him to the Committee, from Mr. *Motte* at *Burdwan*, that he may be indulged with a longer time for collecting the balances due to him from the farms he rented from the Company,

Ordered, The Secretary acquaint him, that his requeſt will be granted, provided he makes all poſſible diſpatch in finiſhing his affairs, and reſtrains himſelf entirely to that buſineſs.

Ordered alſo, The Secretary acquaint Mr. *Kier*, that he will be permitted to remain at *Patna* till the 1ſt of *January* next. And ſhould any balance of ſalt remain there upon his hands, that a Company's ſervant will be directed to take charge of his affairs, and ſettle them to the beſt advantage.

(Signed) CLIVE,
WILL. B. SUMNER,
JOHN CARNAC,
H. VERELST.

NUM. XIX.

*COPY of a * Letter from the Nabob* Sujah al Dowlah *to Lord* Clive, *referred to in the foregoing Proceedings of the Select Committee; as received by his Lordſhip on the 28th* October 1765.

I HAVE written to you ſeveral times, which letters you muſt have received. As I am ever anxious to learn the news of your welfare, the friendſhip between us requires that you ſhould always rejoice me by writing. At preſent Mr. *Marriott* is occaſioning a diſturbance in the mint at *Banáras*; you ſhould enjoin him not in any-wiſe to make oppoſition and contention, but to uſe his endeavours in well-conducting every buſineſs.

P. S. With regard to the treaty between us, I truſt to God, that while I live I ſhall not ſwerve therefrom. At *Banáras* I acquainted you fully with the ſtate of my affairs; and that you ſhould ſo manage for me, that I might have no concern with any one ſave yourſelf, and, thanks to God, you have done it. Concerning the King's affairs, yourſelf was an eye-witneſs of them before your departure, therefore it is needleſs for me to repeat them to you.

* Marked number CLVII. in the book of *Perſian* Correſpondence.

At preſent, however, a treaty is on foot between his Majeſty and *Mulharrow* the *Marahtah*, carried on through the channel of *Seyf al Deen Khawn*, a native of *Caſhmeer*; and by a letter received from a *Marahtah*, which may be relied on, I have learnt, that *Mulharrow* has, through the man of *Caſhmeer* above-mentioned, aſked of the King, *Illahabad*, *Korah*, &c. That his Majeſty conſents to his requeſt, and that the *Caſhmeer*-man's *Vakeel*, having undertaken the management of this buſineſs, has come over from *Mulharrow*, and waited on the King. I therefore write to inform you, that if (which God forbid) theſe meaſures ſhould take place, it will be the occaſion of terrible diſturbance in my Subah. I know not whether you are informed of theſe particulars or not.

Mr. *Marriott* is ſtill making a diſturbance in the mint at *Banáras*, and allows me no manner of authority in it. It is likely he may have imagined, that I would write to him to be put in poſſeſſion; but, excepting you, Sir, I have no concern with any one. If he ſhould with-hold the whole Subah from me, I will not write a word. You will be ſo good as to write to Mr. *Marriott* what ſeems proper to you on this ſubject; and know why he acts contrary to the treaty. Hereafter I ſhall not write to you on this head. I am aſhamed to write repeatedly on an affair of ſuch little conſequence. It becomes you to give ſuch ſtrict orders now, that in future no one may do what is againſt your inclination.

NUM. XX.

COPY of a Letter from Randolph Marriott, *Eſq*; *to the Preſident and Council at* Calcutta.

To the Right Honourable *Robert* Lord *Clive*, Preſident and Governor, *&c.* Gentlemen of the Select Committee, at *Fort William*.

My Lord and Gentlemen;

YESTERDAY I had the honour to receive your favour of the 29th *October*, and am ſorry to find *Sujah al Dowlah* has made complaints to the Right Honourable the Preſident, of great interruptions being given to his affairs by the gentlemen of the factory, which I cannot help thinking are without foundation.

As you have not been pleaſed to mention any particulars, I cannot reply to them, but at preſent am quite ignorant of any ſuch interruption, and

ſhall always be careful that *Sujah al Dowlah* ſhall never have any reaſon for making ſuch complaint.

I am, with reſpect,
My Lord and Gentlemen,
Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,
(Signed) RANDOLPH MARRIOTT.

Banáras,
the 11th Nov. 1765.

NUM. XXI.

COPY of a Letter from the Preſident and Select Committee to Randolph Marriott, *Eſq; and* William Bolts. *Dated the 18th November* 1765.

To *Randolph Marriot*, Eſq; and Mr. *William Bolts*, at *Banáras*.

GENTLEMEN,

THE Preſident has acquainted us, that Mr. *Marriott* has repreſented to him, your preſence would be for a further time neceſſary at *Banáras*, in order to ſettle ſome buſineſs of the factory with *Bulwantſing*; in anſwer to which we have to obſerve, that Mr. *Sage* having been appointed Reſident there in your room, whatever buſineſs may occur ſhould paſs only through his hands; and we therefore repeat our orders, for your delivering over to him the charge of the factory accordingly, and repairing, without further delay, to the Preſidency.

We are,
GENTLEMEN,
Your moſt obedient ſervants,
(Signed) CLIVE,
WILL. B. SUMNER,
JOHN CARNAC,
H. VERELST.

Fort William,
the 18th Nov. 1765.

NUM.

NUM. XXII.

COPY of the Proceedings of the Preſident and Council at Calcutta, *on the 17th* February 1766; *with their final Deciſion on the Diſpute between Mr.* Marriot, *as Chief, and* William Bolts, *as Second of the Factory at* Banáras.

At a Conſultation held on the 17th *February* 1766.

Preſent, The Right Honourable *Robert* Lord *Clive*, Preſident,
Brigadier General *John Carnac*,
Harry Verelſt,
Francis Sykes,
Hugh Watts,
Claud Ruſſell,
William Alderſey,
Thomas Kelſall, and
Charles Ffloyer, Eſquires.

AFTER reading all the foregoing letters, and the examinations and minutes recorded upon the *Banáras* Conſultations, as the ſame were tranſmitted to the board from *Banáras*, the board then proceeded to an examination of the parties, who had been called in and were preſent, as follows:

MR. BOLTS.

Q. When you confined the merchant, whether was it by ſeapoys or the government's people?

A. Neither one or the other; but by my own peons, under whoſe charge he was kept until ſuch time as he could be delivered over to the *Cutwâl*; but how long that was I do not exactly recollect.

Q. Did you acquaint Mr. *Marriott* with your having confined the man previous to your receiving Mr. *Marriott*'s firſt note?

A. No, for the reaſons mentioned in my letters to the board.

Q. At the time you demanded a ſhare in the profits Mr. *Marriott* reaped from the mint, did you know that it was the Preſident and Council's orders, that no Company's ſervant ſhould enjoy any poſt or employment under the government?

A. I did know that it was againſt orders, and have already ſpoken to this in my addreſs to the board on this ſubject, which was written a very few days after my obtaining knowledge of Mr. *Marriott*'s being concerned in the mint.

MR. MARRIOTT deſires Mr. *Bolts* may be aſked, how many days he means, by a very few days?

A. Within a month.

Q. Did

Q. Did you acquaint Mr. *Marriott* with the complaints againſt his banyans, before this diſpute happened between Mr. *Marriott* and you?

A. I had ſeveral amicable converſations with Mr. *Marriott* on the ſubject; and Mr. *Graham* had frequent warm expoſtulations with him upon the ſubject.

Q. Mr. *Bolts* being aſked by Mr. *Marriott*, What were the particular complaints?

A. They were touching Mr. *Marriott*'s banyans being entirely intruſted with thoſe tranſactions that were properly the department of the Council.

Q. Mr. *Marriott* then aſked, If there was any particular abuſe complained of?

A. No. Time did not admit of it, there being only four or five days between my leaving Mr. *Marriott*'s houſe and the breaking out of the diſpute between us; and as I knew that diſputes muſt unavoidably enſue, I delayed repreſenting thoſe grievances whilſt I lived in Mr *Marriott*'s houſe.

Q. The board deſired Mr. *Bolts* to declare, Whether he ever knew it was a ſtanding order, that all applications to the country-government ſhould be made through the Chief?

A. I never underſtood this order in any other light than with regard to private correſpondence with the country-government. In every other matter, I apprehend, the Chief ought never to ſtir without the knowledge of his Council; conceiving the contrary tends only to render the Chief deſpotic, and his Council uſeleſs.

Mr. *Marriott* was then aſked,

Q. As it appears by the *Sunnud*, that the mint and *Cutwâlly* were given up to the Company by the King, had you any authority from the Preſident and Council to ſurrender them up again to the King?

A. I had no ſuch authority; but as it was a tranſaction of Major *Munro*'s and mine, I imagined it had been repreſented by Major *Munro* to the board, as he carried on all correſpondence at that time.

Q. Were the revenues ariſing from thoſe two offices brought to the credit of the Company, before giving them to the King?

A. No; for nothing was collected till after the treaty with *Balwantſing* was ſigned by General *Carnac* and myſelf.

Q. What was the reaſon you did not make the publication that Mr. *Bolts* propoſed, regarding your banyan.

A. Becauſe I never could get Mr. *Bolts* to produce any particular charge againſt the banyan.

Q. When Mr. *Bolts* deſired a ſhare of the profits in the mint, did he deſire it only conditionally, in caſe thoſe profits were authorized by the board?

A. No; for if he had, I could not have had the leaſt pretence for objection.

The Board having no further queſtions to aſk, Mr. *Bolts* deſires leave to make the following remarks:

> " That the declaration of *Diaram Havaldar* is entirely falſe, and that it is extraordinary, that it was never exhibited at *Banáras*. That *Sadoolol*'s petition, applying for redreſs, was written in Mr. *Marriott*'s

chamber, three days after the petitioner had received all the redreſs Mr. *Marriott* could give him, which was reſcuing him from the King's officers by a party of ſeapoys; and, that the ſaid petition was not made mention of by Mr. *Marriott* to Mr. *Bolts*, until the day after Mr. *Marriott* had ſent it in his letter to the board."

THE PRESIDENT obſerves, That Mr. *Marriott*, in one of his letters, in the courſe of theſe proceedings, makes a quotation from a letter of his to his lordſhip, and therefore produces the following extract from his lordſhip's anſwer.

EXTRACT of a Letter from Lord *Clive* to Mr. *Marriott*. Dated near *Baghelpore*, the 16th *July* 1766.

"THE advice you aſk of me concerning the covenants is of ſo delicate and particular a nature, that I cannot, with any propriety, take upon me to give you my opinion; ſince any thing I can ſay, will not have the leaſt weight in a Court of Chancery. Indeed all the advice I can give you is, to give the covenants a ſerious conſideration, and follow the dictates of your own conſcience; *for there is nothing elſe, that I know, which can give the covenants any weight.*"

THE PARTIES withdrawing, and having no further remarks to make, THE BOARD re-conſidered the whole proceedings, and unanimouſly AGREED,

That Mr. *Marriott* is highly culpable in renting the mint, knowing it was againſt the orders of the board for any ſervant of the Company to enjoy any poſt or employment under the country-government, and therefore ought to bring to the Company's credit, all the profits that have accrued to him from the mint; but they humbly hope, in conſideration of Mr. *Marriott*'s general good character, that the Company will be ſatisfied with the money he paid the King, together with the reſtitution, and take no further notice of the affair.

With regard to Mr. *Bolts*, they judge him highly deſerving of cenſure for the diſreſpect he was guilty of towards his Chief, in taking upon himſelf to arreſt *Sadoololl*, and in which he was the more culpable, as it is very doubtful whether *Cogee Petruſe*, in whoſe name he acted, had any * right to ſue for the bond in queſtion. Nor do they allow him *any merit in the diſcovery of the mint-farm, as there is reaſon to believe he was too much influenced thereto*, from his being refuſed a ſhare therein by Mr. *Marriott*.

* *Cogee Petruſe* being, indiſputably, the lawful heir to the eſtate of his deceaſed brother, who was the proprietor of the bond, it would ſeem the board doubted whether he had any right to the property, becauſe his brother *Gurgueen Khawn* had been one of *Meer Coſſim*'s Generals. Upon the ſame principles of juſtice, 230,000 rupees were withheld, for ſeven years, from *Bolakydaſs*, who had been *Meer Coſſim*'s banker. See A. page 83. The reader muſt therefore conſider this only as an inſtance of the *Club-Law*, not unfrequently applied in the *Eaſt Indies*.

NUM.

NUM. XXIII.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Preſident and Council at Calcutta, *on the 3d of* March 1766.

At a Conſultation held the 3d *March* 1766.

Preſent, The Right Honourable *Robert* Lord *Clive*, Preſident,
Brigadier General *John Carnac*,
Harry Verelſt,
Francis Sykes,
Randolph Marriott,
Hugh Watts,
Claud Ruſſell,
William Alderſey,
Thomas Kelſall, and
Charles Ffloyer, Eſquires.

MR. MARRIOTT delivers in the following minute, in conſequence of the ſentence paſſed on him by the board at the laſt conſultation:

"THE extract from your conſultation of the 17th *February*, I have received from your Secretary, declaring me highly culpable in renting the mint, knowing it was againſt the orders of the board for any ſervant of the Company's to enjoy any poſt or employment under the country-government.

In the month of *October* 1764, the *Nabob made a complaint to the board in the following terms: "Whereas the *Engliſh* gomaſtahs hold farms "in the name of the factories, and give protection to the dependants of the "*Sircar*; by theſe means my government is weakened, and the affairs of the "country are interrupted and prejudiced. It is proper you ſhould give "ſuch effectual orders on this ſubject, that the renting of villages may be "put an entire ſtop to, and no one may protect the dependants of the "Sircar."——The board, in conſequence, ordered, in conſultation the 17th *October* 1764, that none of the Company's ſervants or dependants, or perſons reſiding under their protection, ſhould be permitted to hold any lands, gunges, rents, or employments of any kind from the country-government.——The ſame order had before been given by the board, in conſultations of the 5th *March* 1763, and 4th of *June* 1764, in conſequence of the like complaints from the Nabob.

The order was evidently occaſioned by the Nabob's complaints, and intended to put an end to the diſputes between his government and ours. "The government," it is true, may include the King's as well as the Nabob's, but the board's intentions regarded ſolely to the latter; and my renting the

* *Jaffier Ally Khawn.*

mint, therefore, from the King, although it may be conſidered contrary to the letter of the order, does not at all appear to be inconſiſtent with the board's intention, eſpecially as no kind of diſturbance, or imbroilment, could be apprehended from it. I hope, therefore, that your lordſhip, *&c.* will be kind enough to take this matter into further conſideration, and mitigate the ſeverity of the cenſure you have paſſed upon me.

(Signed) RANDOLPH MARRIOTT.

NUM. XXIV.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Preſident and Council at Calcutta, *on the* 28*th* November 1766.

Fort William, the 28th November 1766.

At a Conſultation, preſent,

William Brightwell Sumner, Eſq; Preſident,
Harry Verelſt,
Hugh Watts,
Thomas Kelſall,
Randolph Marriott,
William Alderſey, and
Charles Ffloyer, Eſquires.
Lord *Clive* indiſpoſed,
General *Carnac* abſent,
Mr. *Ruſſell* indiſpoſed.

Mr. *Marriott* lays the following Letter before the Board.

To the Right Honourable Lord *Clive*, Preſident and Governor, *&c.* Council of *Fort William*.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

ON receiving an extract of your conſultations of the 17th *February* 1766, declaring me "highly culpable in renting the mint," as it was contrary to the orders of the board for any ſervant of the Company's to enjoy any poſt, or employment under the country-government, and therefore ordering me to refund to the Company all the profits that accrued to me therefrom: I immediately addreſſed your lordſhip, *&c.* under date the 24th *February*, deſiring this ſevere cenſure might be taken into conſideration again, and reverſed; as there was much difference betwixt the King's government and the Nabob's, in conſideration of which latter's, the above orders have been iſſued; and as no bad conſequences had attended my renting the mint, or had I, with reſpect to it, interfered the leaſt with the Company's government, I therefore hoped this indulgence might have been ſhewn me. After this,

this, I was desired to withdraw my letter, which I did, understanding it was not the sentiments of the board, that the Company could have any claim on me for the profits that had accrued on farming the mint; but that, as I had given it up to the King, jointly with Major *Munro*, without having the direct orders of the board for it; having neglected to inform them of this transaction, which was the day after my arrival in camp, imagining Major *Munro* had done it, in his letters of that day, I should therefore pay the Company the sum I had paid the King for the farm of it; and had the permission of this board, to apply to his Majesty for the said sum back again. But, to my great surprize, when I came to peruse the general letter, I found the aforesaid censure had not been taken off, and that you continued in your former sentiments; and were only pleased to hope, that, in consideration of my general good character, our honourable masters would be satisfied with the money I paid the King, and the advantages that arose in re-stamping their species, an advantage I never disputed was their due. I therefore was obliged to desire my aforementioned letter, of the 24th *February*, might be entered on the consultations.

In consequence of your permission, I addressed his Majesty; translate of which, with his answer, I beg leave to annex; as he has not been pleased, as yet, to order the money to be returned, I have wrote to him again, and am in daily expectation of his answer.

In consultation of the 17th *February* 1766, you have been pleased to say, that it appears by the *Sunnud*, that the mint and *Cutwâlly* were given up to the Company by the King; and indeed in this light Major *Munro* and myself understood it, when we demanded possession from the King; and which we afterwards ceased to demand, on his representations, which I have before set forth.

If by the *Sunnud* is meant the King's Firmaun, for the grant of *Bulwantsing*'s zemindary, in justice to his Majesty, I cannot help thinking this demand should be dropped; and I flatter myself you will be of the same opinion, when you have reference to it, there being no such thing mentioned in the Firmaun as the giving up the mint and *Cutwâlly* to the Company; neither is it mentioned in *Bulwantsing*'s zemindary-*Sunnud*, being quite contrary to the nature of the *Hindostan* government; and I therefore should imagine, nothing more could be desired from his Majesty than his fulfilling the letter of his agreement.

Should there any doubt remain about the meaning of *Bulwantsing*'s zemindary, *Sujah al Dowlah* and the *Rajah's Vakeel* may both be called upon on the occasion, and likewise reference had to *Sujah al Dowlah's Tunkhaw* on *Bulwantsing*, to pay the last year's revenues of his zemindary to the Company; by which it will appear, whether these two posts are included in his zemindary or not.

I am, with respect,
My Lord and Gentlemen,
Your most obedient,
humble servant,

Fort William,
the 23d Nov. 1766. (Signed) RANDOLPH MARRIOTT.

NUM. XXV.

EXTRACT from the General Letter of the Court of East India *Directors, to their Preſident and Council at* Bengal. *Dated* London, *the 4th* March 1767.

Par. XXXI. ALTHOUGH Mr. *Marriott* accepting, or even ſoliciting an office under the country-government is a violation of orders, and the rules of our ſervice, yet, in conſideration of the general good character you repreſent him to bear, we are ſatisfied, for the preſent at leaſt, with your obliging him to refund all the advantages he made from his renting the mint at *Banáras*. He ought to look upon this act of lenity in ſuch a light, as to induce him to be more circumſpect in future; and ſhew his gratitude, by exerting his utmoſt endeavours for the good of the ſervice. Until we have had a ſufficient experience of Mr. *Marriott*'s future conduct, he is not to be taken into the Select Committee, on any vacancy, without our expreſs leave.

XXXII. We agree with you, that the part Mr. *Bolts* has acted at *Banáras*, as repreſented in your * letter, is highly deſerving of cenſure; and if his conduct in future is not perfectly to your ſatisfaction, we recommend it to you, to ſuſpend, or diſmiſs him the ſervice, as you ſhall judge his behaviour may deſerve.

(Signed) GEO. DUDLEY, LUKE SCRAFTON,
THO. ROUS, E. H. CRUTTENDEN,
JOHN HARRISON, JOHN ROBERTS,
FRE. PIGOU, J. CRESWICKE,
F. W. BARRINGTON, CHA. CHAMBERS,
PETER DU CANE, jun. GEORGE CUMING,
EDWARD WHELER, HENRY SAVAGE,
JOSIAH DU PRE, JOHN PURLING,
CHARLES CUTTS, ROB. JONES,
GEO. WOMBWELL.

* Contrary to truth or juſtice, and againſt the evidence of every circumſtance proved before them.

LETTER

LETTER D.

CONTAINING Copies of Letters which paſſed between *Claud Ruſſell*, Eſq; one of his Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace for the Town of *Calcutta*, Mr. *Philip Pollock*, and *William Bolts*; relative to an intended Indictment of the Latter, upon a forged Accuſation of his having forcibly taken from Mr. *Pollock*'s Houſe certain Books and Papers, in the Year 1767.

NUM. I.

To Mr. *William Bolts*.

SIR,

ONE *Philip Pollock* has this inſtant lodged a complaint with me (as acting juſtice) againſt you and your banyan, for forcibly taking out of his houſe ſome *Bengal* accounts and papers; and afterwards refuſing to deliver them up.——He ſeems determined to bring the affair to a public hearing; but before I take any ſteps that my office obliges me to, I ſhall be glad you will either call upon me, or acquaint me in writing, with what you have to ſay in anſwer to this complaint.

I am,
SIR,
Your very obedient ſervant,
(Signed) CLAUD RUSSELL
One of his Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace.

Calcutta,
the 5th May 1767.

NUM. II.

To *Claud Ruſſell*, Eſq;

SIR,

THE complaint you mention is altogether groundleſs and falſe; however, I ſhall be glad it be brought to a public hearing, as in that caſe the villainy of Mr. *Pollock* will become notorious. But to ſave you trouble, I ſhall give you a brief account of what I imagine Mr. *Pollock* proceeds upon; at the ſame time declaring to you, that yeſterday was the firſt time I ever had the leaſt intimation of his being diſſatisfied.

Mr.

Mr. *Pollock* acted as agent for Meſſrs. *Johnſtone*, *Hay*, and *Bolts* in *Dinagepore:* and notwithſtanding the moſt frequent applications made to him by me for near two years, he delayed giving in the accounts required of his tranſactions. Some, however, he gave in, and pretended he was making out the remainder; but with ſuch frivolous excuſes, that it plainly appeared his deſign was to prolong the delivery of the accounts required, as long as poſſible; while in the mean time, once or twice a month, he uſed to get drunk for ten or twelve days on a ſtretch, locking himſelf up, and prohibiting all admittance to him. At laſt, tired out of all patience, I thought it was better to take myſelf the trouble of collating the *Bengal* papers, and finiſhing the general accounts, than thus to depend upon the performance of a drunken man: and on the 25th *April* paſt, I went to his houſe in the morning, and acquainted him with my intention, deſiring he would give me the *Bengal* papers. He never made a ſingle objection, or expreſſed the leaſt diſſatisfaction: but immediately ordered the delivery of what papers were then ready; and at the ſame time appointed the afternoon to deliver ſome other papers, which were at another houſe; where he accordingly ſent his people, who took out the remainder of the papers, and freely delivered them to my people in conformity to Mr. *Pollock*'s orders, without the leaſt appearance of reluctance, ſo far from force being uſed.

You will pleaſe to obſerve, that the papers in queſtion are ſolely of the tranſactions of *Johnſtone*, *Hay*, and *Bolts*, which Mr. *Pollock* or any other perſon could not haye withheld from me. They are written by our clerks in monthly pay; nay, the paper, ink, and pens made uſe of have been paid for by us: and I am ſo cautious on theſe occaſions, that had I even ſuſpected Mr. *Pollock* would have objected, I ſhould have applied for a legal warrant, and would have recovered them by law. This was no ways neceſſary as he voluntarily delivered them, cauſing every paper which did not belong to *Johnſtone*, *Hay*, and *Bolts* to be diligently picked out, and ten days have elapſed ſince the delivery.

I am no ways averſe to the affair's coming to a public hearing, if neceſſary. In the mean time, if you want any further information, or it be neceſſary for me to appear perſonally, on your appointing a time, I will wait upon you.

I am, SIR,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

Calcutta,
5th May 1767.

(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

P. S. I forgot to inform you, that the papers in queſtion, ſince brought from Mr. *Pollock*'s houſe, have been, and ſtill are as much in his poſſeſſion as mine, he having from the firſt appointed a man to keep them locked with one key, while my Sircar keeps the other: ſo that I am apprehenſive his troubling you on this occaſion is owing to ſome drunken fit. It remains for me to thank you for your obliging method of writing to me before you proceeded to any acts of office.

NUM. III.

To Mr. William Bolts.

SIR,

I HAVE this morning acquainted Mr. *Pollock*, in preſence of your *Banyan*, with the contents of your letter: but he ſtill perſiſts, and ſeems determined to carry matters to extremities. I have therefore deſired he would call here to-morrow morning at nine o'clock, with his witneſſes; and in the mean while, I would really recommend to you to make up the matter with him; for be you right or wrong, there is nothing got by being brought to the bar. I have given him the ſame advice very ſtrongly, and ſhould imagine giving up the papers, and examining them in his houſe, inſtead of yours, might conciliate matters.

I am, SIR,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

Calcutta,
6th May 1767.

(Signed) CLAUD RUSSELL.

P. S. You will pleaſe to attend at the examination; and I think your witneſſes ſhould be alſo preſent.

NUM. IV.

To Claud Ruſſell, *Eſq*;

SIR,

THE matter of fact is as I repreſented it to you, in my letter yeſterday, and will bear the ſtricteſt ſcrutiny of a jury. I ſhould be very averſe to giving a point up in which I am not conſcious of being in the wrong, though the affair ſhould be carried to the utmoſt extremity; eſpecially as it is no diſhonour to be unjuſtly accuſed by a rogue. However, I am perſuaded upon the examination to-morrow, it will be found that there is not ſufficient foundation to bring it before a jury, but that it is a patched up and malicious affair. I ſhall wait upon you to-morrow, and am, SIR,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

Calcutta,
6th May 1767.

(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

NUM. V.

To Mr. William Bolts.

SIR,

THE public manner in which, a few days ago, you carried out of my houſe all my *Bengal* books and papers, againſt my conſent, has been the means of ruining my credit, and greatly injured my character, among

among the gentlemen and merchants of this town, eſpecially thoſe with whom I have dealings, which could not have happened, had you left it to me to ſend the papers you requeſted a ſight of, as I repeated times told you I would, but that it would take ſome time to ſort them from my other papers.

However, your determined reſolution to have the papers that day, prevented your adhering to my promiſes and real intention to comply with your requeſt. Nevertheleſs, had I not been ignorant of the *Engliſh* laws, *I ſhould not have ſuffered* you to carry my papers out of my houſe in ſo public and peremptory a manner.

But, Sir, notwithſtanding I am greatly injured by this unlawful act of yours, I am ſtill deſirous to ſettle the affair in an amicable manner, provided you will return me all the books and papers you ſo unjuſtly ſeized; as that may be a means to re-eſtabliſh my credit and character. And I do aſſure you that I will grant permiſſion to ſend to my houſe whom you pleaſe to examine the books and accounts belonging to the triple concerns, and depending between us; and if, upon examination, any diſpute ſhould ariſe concerning the ſaid accounts, I will petition the Honourable the Mayor's-court to appoint proper perſons to adjuſt the ſame. Your compliance with this my reaſonable requeſt, by immediately returning all my books and papers, will prevent any farther proceedings being taken in this affair by,

SIR,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

Calcutta,
6th May 1767.

(Signed) PHILIP POLLOCK.

NUM. VI.

To Mr. Philip Pollock.

SIR,

I AM ſurprized at the letter you have juſt ſent me, and wonder you are not aſhamed to ſet your hand to ſuch infamous lies. However, know, that I am as well acquainted with the *Engliſh* laws as the perſon you have applied to, and being conſcious of the rectitude of what I have done, which was with your own conſent, I am not to be intimidated. Proceed, in whatever manner you pleaſe, you ſhall not have a ſingle paper back, of thoſe you freely delivered to me, as papers belonging to *Johnſtone*, *Hay*, and *Bolts*. I ſay again, proceed; you will thereby not only give me an opportunity of proſecuting you for a breach of your ſigned agreement, given to *Johnſtone*, *Hay*, and *Bolts*, but I ſhall alſo have a criminal action againſt you and your emiſſaries for perjury, which you will be obliged to involve yourſelves in, to ſupport your preſent complaint. I ſhall, beſides, have a civil action againſt you, for the rogueries committed, loſſes from neglects by your drunkenneſs, and other damages: and depend upon it, you will woefully rue taking the advice of the mean raſcals who are ſpurring you on.———Conſider in which way your character and credit will be moſt affected, and then dare to proceed in your falſe complaint againſt your late, and hitherto indulgent, maſter.

Calcutta, the 6th May 1767. (Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

LETTER

LETTER E.

CONTAINING Extracts and Copies of * Letters, Orders, Petitions, and Affidavits concerning the Perſecutions of four *Armenian* Merchants, who were ſeveral Months impriſoned in *Bengal*, by order of Governor *Verelſt* and others, under the Denomination of Agents to *William Bolts*. Alſo Copies of the Proceedings of the Select Committee at *Calcutta*, and of the *Eaſt-India* Directors in *London*, on the Subjects of the ſaid Impriſonments, and the Trade in *Sujah al Dowlah*'s Territories; with other relative Documents.

NUM. I.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts, *at* Calcutta, *to Colonel* Richard Smith, *at* Illahabad. *Dated the* 13*th* May 1767.

To Colonel *Richard Smith.*

SIR,

THE perſon who will do himſelf the honour of forwarding, or delivering this to you, is *Cogee Melcomb Philip*, an *Armenian*, whom I have experienced, for theſe ſix years paſt, to be a man of the greateſt probity and integrity. He is partly intruſted with the management of my outſtanding concerns in thoſe parts, which are very conſiderable and troubleſome. On this account, I am obliged to take the liberty of recommending him to the favour of your protection, ſhould he require it, which I requeſt you will grant him, in ſuch affairs as may appear to you equitable, and deſerving of it.

The ſituation of my outſtanding concerns in thoſe parts is briefly this: Laſt year, with a view to the improvements of the following ſeaſon, I bought the concerns in ſalt-petre of Meſſrs. *Marriott* and *Sage*, paying them down a profit of *ſeventy per cent.* upon their advances, and taking their outſtanding debts, which were very conſiderable, upon myſelf. I then entered into freſh contracts with the *Aſſamies*, (the ſaltpetre-boilers, *&c.*) which have been regularly executed above nine months. Upon theſe contracts, regularly made, according to the cuſtom of merchants, I have made the advances, as uſual; ſo that, together with the outſtanding balances of the former year, I have now near thirty thouſand rupees out, upon ſaltpetre, advanced upon the faith of contracts with the *Aſſamies*, whoſe labour, in conſequence thereof, according to cuſtom, becomes my property.

* The reader will pleaſe to remark that the tranſlations and abſtracts of the *Perſian* letters to and from Mr. *Verelſt*, contained in this head of our Appendix, are given as they ſtand on the records of the Company, called the *Perſian* correſpondence.

In this ſituation, one *Iſmaelbeg*, and others, are endeavouring, in ſome places by open force, and in other places by offering to the *Aſſamies* greater prices than what they have engaged with me for, to decoy them away, and to take poſſeſſion of the property which I have thus contracted and paid for.—Nay, in ſome places, their oppreſſion is carried to ſuch lengths, that my *gomaſtahs* have been plundered of the petre they had actually received into their golahs or warehouſes. The governor has been ſo kind as to write upon the ſubject to *Sujah al Dowlah*; but ſo great advantages thoſe have who are on the ſpot, that I ſtill find myſelf clogged with great impediments. *Iſmaelbeg* is aſſiſted and inſtigated by Mr. *John Chamier*, who, with reſpect to his tranſactions with me, has behaved very diſhonourably. I do not pretend to any excluſive right; all I want is, that my property be not touched, nor my aſſamies meddled with. There are places and people enough, where, and with whom the ſame induſtry would find the ſame advantages as I have had. But it would be a great hardſhip, that other perſons ſhould not only be permitted, with impunity, to rob me of my property, but alſo to reap the fruits of the induſtry which I have employed for twelve months paſt, in bringing this branch from its infancy to perfection, in many places where the making of ſaltpetre was never before thought of. And it is particularly cruel, that I ſhould meet with theſe impediments, at a time when I have juſt got my goods ready, and am preparing to finiſh all my concerns, in order to proceed to *Europe*.

I muſt, therefore, requeſt from your good nature and juſtice, that upon the application of *Cogee Melcomb*, you will pleaſe to give or procure him ſuch letters as may enable me to obtain juſtice, wherever oppreſſion is uſed. I am in hopes of coming up myſelf ſhortly, having made application for that purpoſe, which I am flattered will be granted me, when I ſhall be upon a footing with my opponents. In the mean time, your kind aſſiſtance will be conferring a laſting obligation upon me.

In return for this trouble, if there be any perſons whom you would be glad to oblige, by putting them in poſſeſſion of the whole, or any part of this branch of buſineſs, I do hereby engage, that after the expiration of the two months remaining of the preſent ſeaſon, I will make over my aſſamies, gomaſtahs, and contracts, *&c.* in ſuch manner, that they ſhall have ſecured to them, the whole produce of the places where I have had my contracts, among which are ſome that I hold upon a farm, unmoleſted; which will produce next ſeaſon, with the improvements I have made, at leaſt ſeven or eight thouſand maunds of refined petre.

This is an object very well worth the while of any perſon whom you may chuſe to oblige, as I am confident that, with your protection and the people I have in employ, who are perfectly acquainted with the buſineſs, not leſs than ſixty thouſand rupees *per annum* might be cleared, without any noiſe or trouble. It will give me the greateſt pleaſure if, by your approving of this ſcheme, I ſhould have it in my power to contribute to the obliging of any perſon whom you may eſteem worthy of your friendſhip.

Before you left *Calcutta*, you was ſo kind as to promiſe that, on your arrival at *Camp*, you would take the affair of Captain *Fenwick*'s off-reckonings into your

your conſideration. I take the liberty to remind you of your promiſe; who am, with the greateſt reſpect, SIR,

Calcutta, *13th May* 1767.

Your moſt obedient, humble ſervant,
(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

NUM. II.

Tranſlation, from the French, *of a Letter written by* William Bolts, *at* Calcutta, *to Monſieur* Gentil, *at* Fyzabad. *Dated the* 19*th* June 1767.

DEAR SIR,

IT is a long time ſince I heard from you, which makes me a little uneaſy. I have long intended to go from hence to have the pleaſure of ſeeing you; as alſo to pay my reſpects to the Nabob, but my affairs have not as yet permitted me; nevertheleſs, it is what I hope to be able to do in a ſhort time.

In regard to the ſaltpetre, I hope the diſputes on that ſubject are ended; but it is not poſſible for me to abandon my right, for the advantage of other gentlemen, who have no other pretenſions than what are founded on injuſtice; and who would take the advantage of my abſence to deprive me of the advantage of my contracts, which have exiſted a long time, and which were made with all propriety and juſtice, conformably to the cuſtom of Merchants. If this had been for the Nabob, it would have been another thing. But before I give up the point to gentlemen who are not in any way my ſuperiors, I aſſure you I will follow the affair to the laſt court of juſtice where I can have recourſe. Next year I will give over all farther commerce: but in the mean time I hope you will favour me with your aſſiſtance. My gomaſtah, *Goaldaſs*, writes me, you had informed him, that Colonel *Barker* had wrote letters to ſtop all my buſineſs, and to drive away my people. I ſhall be obliged to you for your information on that ſubject, for that gentleman is not authoriſed to act in ſuch a manner.

I have taken the liberty to ſend you a letter for *Cogee Rafael*; I beg you will deliver it to him, and ſend me his anſwer. I am ſurpriſed the Nabob has not as yet paid (as they write me) the amount of the broad-cloth which my people ſold him: if that be true, be ſo good as repreſent the ſame to him. *Melcomb* writes me, that he alſo has ſent ſome cloth from *Dacca* to the Nabob's camp. I do not doubt of your favourable aſſiſtance for the ſale. I ſhall be very glad when you give me an opportunity of rendering you any ſervice here, in return for the trouble I have given you. I ſhall never be convinced of your friendſhip, unleſs you give me ſome opportunity or other of teſtifying mine; but you, who are Naib-ſubah, and immerged in buſineſs, are perhaps above theſe trifles. Let it be as it will, I aſſure you, my dear Sir, that no body wiſhes you better than I do.

I have written a letter to the Nabob, to whom I beg you will give my humble reſpects. There is arrived an *Engliſh* * *Europe*-ſhip and another *French* one.

* A term uſed in *India*, to diſtinguiſh them from the *Engliſh* ſhips that are entirely employed in *Aſia*.

The affairs of our Company are in great commotion before the King and Parliament of *England:* and according to the letters I have received there is a great likelihood, that my former partner Mr. *Johnſtone* will come out governor from the King. I ſhall be glad, at all times, to hear from you, who am, with a moſt perfect eſteem,

DEAR SIR,

Calcutta, 19*th June* 1767.

Your moſt humble ſervant,
(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

P. S. I need not recommend *Mahommed Aſhruff Khawn* to your notice.

NUM. III.

Tranſlation of an Extract of a Letter from Cogee Johannes Padre Rafael *to* William Bolts. *Dated at* Fyzabad *the* 27*th* July 1767.

GOVERNOR *Verelſt* has written a letter to the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah*, the purport of which is to inform him, that as you have reſigned the Company's ſervice and are not under their protection, you are not deſerving of the favour he ſhows you, nor is it proper he ſhould ſuffer your people to remain in his country. Likewiſe General *Smith* has written to Captain *Harper*, of this place, to ſeize all your people and ſend them to him.

NUM. IV.

**Extract of a Letter from Mr.* Robert Maddiſon *to Mr.* Verelſt. *Dated* Patna, October *the* 23*d* 1767.

A FLEET of thirty boats arrived here yeſterday, laden with *ophium*, *ſaltpetre*, *&c.* which took my name; and a peon came twice to *Noongolah* to apply for tow-boats, ſaying, he was ordered to apply to Mr. †*Mudie* for that purpoſe. Upon inquiry, I find they belong to Mr. *Bolts*; whoſe *time of a duſtuck being expired*, may probably have given his people this order, to have them *paſs unmoleſted.* I thought it neceſſary to make you acquainted with this, leſt I might fall under any ſuſpicions of paſſing other peoples goods *under my name.*

* *Verelſt*'s Appendix, Page 197.
† Mr. *Maddiſon*'s partner in the ſalt-trade. See A, Num. XXXIX. Page 193.

NUM.

NUM. V.

EXTRACT of a Letter from the Preſident and Select Committee, at Calcutta, *to Colonel* Richard Smith. *Dated the 17th* November 1767.

To Colonel Richard *Smith*, Commander in Chief *under the Preſidency.

SIR,

THE Committee have recommended to the Preſident the taking effectual ſteps for removing Monſieur *Gentil* and his aſſociates from the Court and Councils of *Sujah al Dowlah*, which we hope to effect without laying a diſagreeable reſtraint on the Nabob's inclinations.

The meaſure becomes neceſſary: but we are deſirous of obſerving upon this, as upon all other occaſions, the moſt punctilious delicacy towards his Highneſs.

We approve your calling upon Mr. *Maddiſon to attend the public ſervice*, and that gentleman has the Preſident's directions to proceed to you with all poſſible diſpatch.

(Signed) HARRY VERELST,
JOHN CARTIER,
RICHARD BECHER,
ALEXANDER CAMPBELL.

NUM. VI.

†*EXTRACT of a Letter from Mr.* Robert Maddiſon *to Mr.* Verelſt. *Dated* Illahabad, November *the 26th* 1767.

"AS the fleet of boats I mentioned in my laſt left *Patna* a day or two after I had the honour of tranſmitting you an account of them, your ‡ orders thither will probably arrive too late; but *as there are more fleets to be diſpatched*, they will certainly be in time for them.

During

* This was a new mode of direction, which the Committee thought neceſſary at this period, in order to give the Colonel to underſtand, that he was not Commander *over* the Preſidency.

† *Verelſt*'s Appendix, Page 204.

‡ It is moſt probable, that it was in conſequence of Preſident *Verelſt*'s orders, here referred to, that the writer was deprived of his privilege of a duſtuck, before the expiration of his time, as will be underſtood from the following copies of two letters to and from Mr. *Rumbold*, Chief of *Patna*.

"To *Thomas Rumbold*, Eſq;

SIR,

SOME time ago, and *before even twelve months were expired* after I had reſigned the Company's ſervice, my Gomaſtah applied to you, as he informs me, for duſtucks to conduct my goods down from your factory, which were denied him. As this has been of great detriment to me, I requeſt the favour of your information, on what account they were refuſed, which will oblige,

SIR,
Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,
(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS."

Calcutta,
10*th May* 1768.

To

During my ſtay at *Fyzabad I caſually got into my hands* a letter from Mr. *Bolts* to Monſ. *Gentil*, in his own writing; where, beſides ſome other circumſtances (which are not perhaps unexceptionable) he acquaints him that *the affairs of the Company were in great agitation before the King and Parliament, and that according to the letters he had received, there was great appearance that his* ASSOCIATE, *Mr.* Johnſtone, *would come out Governor on the part of the King.* Finding from the letter, *&c.* that he had wrote to the Nabob, I ſet myſelf to diſcover the contents of that letter, but in vain. At laſt I took occaſion one day, when the Nabob was inquiring what news from *Europe*, to tell him, that we had no news which could be depended on; and that the intelligence Mr. *Bolts* had communicated to him concerning Mr. *Johnſtone*'s coming out Governor on the part of the King, was certainly erroneous. He anſwered me with precipitation, "No, no, he did not write "to me, he wrote it to *Meer Maſhallah*, and I had it from him."

I delivered the letter to Colonel *Smith*, and ſuppoſe he has ere this acquainted you fully of this matter.

Permit me however to ſuggeſt to you another channel of intelligence to the Nabob, which Mr. *Bolts* has been inſtrumental in forming, and which ſtill remains open; I mean his *Armenian* Gomaſtahs. He had one at *Fyzabad*, *Cogee Rafael*, another at *Banáras*, *Cogee Melcomb*, and a third near *Ghazipoor*, *Cogee Gregore*. Theſe people have been perpetually filling the country and the Nabob's Court with lying rumours;—have reported, that Mr. *Bolts* was returning to *Banáras* with greater power than before; that he was even ſet out, and a variety of other falſehoods, in order to miſlead the Nabob, and beſt anſwer their own purpoſes. *Cogee Melcomb* in particular had a conſtant correſpondence at *Calcutta*, and I have intelligence, which I believe may be depended on, that he has lately reported at the Nabob's Court, "that he "was going to enter into Mr. *Rumbold*'s ſervice, or had entered into it, and "would bring a letter from the Council, that no *Engliſh* Gomaſtah ſhould "be licenſed except himſelf;" every circumſtance of which is utterly falſe, and the news is not four days old. The *Armenians*, indeed, in general, ſeem to have adopted a ſyſtem of fixing themſelves in the Nabob's dominions, as they were formerly at *Murſhedabad*; and though the Nabob has, on account of ſome of their mal-practices, forbid them his province, yet, as *Engliſh* Gomaſtahs, he is perhaps cautious of expelling them. How far this circum-

"To *William Bolts*, Eſq;

SIR,

I HAVE received your favour of the 10th: in reply, I am to inform you, I never give my reaſons, for granting or not granting Duſtucks, but to thoſe who have a right to demand them, the Honourable Preſident and Council of *Fort William*.

I am, SIR,

Patna, Your moſt obedient ſervant,

18*th May* 1768. (Signed) THOMAS RUMBOLD."

ſtance

ſtance may be worthy of your attention, you will be the moſt proper judge; but as a fact, I thought it neceſſary to lay it before you.

I learnt a circumſtance at *Banáras* concerning Mr. *Bolts*'s manner of paſſing his fleets, which may not be improper to communicate. He procured, laſt year, a conſiderable number of duſtucks from Mr. *Middleton* for *ſaltpetre*, *tincal*, &c. and as ſome of theſe duſtucks have lately been ſeen in *Cogee Melcomb*'s hands, it is probable he avails himſelf of theſe.

NUM. VII.

COPY of the Proceedings of the Preſident and Council of Calcutta, *on the* 10*th* December 1767.

At a Conſultation held at *Calcutta*, the 10th *December* 1767.

Preſent, The Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident,
John Cartier,
Richard Becher,
Claud Ruſſell,
William Alderſey,
Charles Ffloyer, and
Alexander Campbell, Eſquires.

The Select Committee lay before the Board the following extract of a letter from Colonel *Smith*, which incloſed copy of a letter from Mr. *William Bolts* to Monſ. *Gentil*, as entered hereafter.

EXTRACT of a Letter from Colonel Richard Smith *to the Select Committee. Dated* November *the* 24*th* 1767.

FEW men will be ſo hardy as to maintain a direct correſpondence with the Nabob, but there is a man who has ſo obliquely offered ſo great an inſult to our Preſident, that, was I preſent at the Board, I would move for the exertion of our authority to the utmoſt extent, to free the ſettlement from ſo dangerous an inhabitant. I mean Mr. *Bolts*; and the incloſed * copy of a letter (the original is in my poſſeſſion) to M. *Gentil*, reſiding in *Sujah al Dowlah*'s Court, wherein he aſſerts an abſolute falſehood, which, as it tends to leſſen that eſſential dignity and neceſſary influence of our Preſident, is ſurely deſerving of our ſevereſt reſentment. Nor is this the only letter he wrote, for the Nabob acquainted a perſon of

* See Number II. Page 347.

undoubted

undoubted honour, that Mr. *Bolts* had wrote the ſame to *Meer* * *Maſhallah*, formerly phyſician and confidant of *Coſſim Ally*, from whom the Nabob heard it.

A true extract.

(Signed) CHA. WILL. BOUGHTON, Aſſiſt. Sec. Sel. Com.

Mr. *Verelſt*'s Minute upon the Occaſion.

"THE Preſident acquaints the Board, that he ſome time ſince received information of the improper correſpondence carried on by Mr. *Bolts* with *Sujah al Dowlah*, M. *Gentil*, and many other perſons; that he deſired a gentleman reſiding up the country to endeavour to procure a particular letter written by Mr. *Bolts*, which he effected, and delivered the letter to Colonel *Smith*, who incloſed the ſame to the Committee; that he can aſſert, from undoubted authority, that Mr. *Bolts* continues his correſpondence with perſons reſiding at the Courts of *the Country Princes*, and, with his *Armenian* agents, is endeavouring by falſe reports and repreſentations, to leſſen the *reſpect due to the preſent Adminiſtration*, and to deſtroy the harmony and confidence ſubſiſting between us and the powers of *Hindoſtan*.

The Preſident is farther informed that Mr. *Bolts* has an *Armenian* agent at *Fyzabad*, named *Cogee Rafael*, another at *Banáras*, *Cogee Melcomb*, and a third reſiding near *Ghazipoor*, by name *Cogee Gregore*. Through theſe people he ungratefully endeavours to injure the intereſts of thoſe in whoſe ſervice he raiſed an independency; and theſe *Armenians*, under the characters of *Engliſh* Gomaſtahs, are ſtriving to eſtabliſh themſelves in *Sujah al Dowlah*'s dominions, upon the footing they formerly were at *Murſhedabad*, notwithſtanding the Nabob, on account of ſome mal-practices, has lately forbidden them his province †. *The Preſident has however deſired his Excellency to baniſh all ſuch* as are in his country, under the pretext of being Gomaſtahs to the *Engliſh*.

Mr. *Bolts* whilſt he was in the Company's ſervice procured a number of duſtucks, pretending he wanted them to paſs his goods, but he laid them by, unuſed, until his reſignation of the ſervice; ſince when, he has availed himſelf of them to carry on his trade duty-free. The Preſident, upon being informed of it, wrote to the Miniſters, deſiring them to iſſue orders to the Chokeys for ſtopping all duſtucks of a very old date: a meaſure which he hopes will put a ſtop to ſo *diſhoneſt and unlawful a proceeding*.

(Signed) HARRY VERELST."

* A Miniſter of the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah*, and the ſame perſon whoſe name appears affixed to the treaty with that Nabob, of the 12th of *Auguſt* 1765. See Appendix to Conſiderations, *&c.* Page 29.

† The reader will here perceive that Mr. *Verelſt* has framed his minute, *verbatim*, from Mr. *Maddiſon*'s private information. In this manner were the records of Council formed and tranſmitted to the Directors, ſhamefully expoſing individuals to ruin, in fortune and reputation, even without a hearing.

NUM. VIII.

EXTRACT of a Letter from the Preſident and Select Committee at Calcutta. *Dated the* 22*d* December 1767, *to Colonel* Richard Smith.

WE much approve of the information you have ſent us regarding Mr. *Bolts*'s conduct in the carrying on a correſpondence with Monſieur *Gentil* at the Court of *Sujah al Dowlah*, and have laid the ſame before the Council; whoſe ſentiments, as well as ours, we with pleaſure obſerve entirely concur with thoſe you have expreſſed on that ſubject. We requeſt you will uſe your endeavours with the Nabob to *remove Mr.* Bolts*'s Gomaſtahs from his dominians.*

(Signed) H. VERELST,
JOHN CARTIER,
RICHARD BECHER,
CHARLES FFLOYER.

NUM. IX.

EXTRACT of a Letter from Colonel Richard Smith *to the Preſident and Select Committee at* Calcutta. *Dated the* 3*d* January 1768, *as* * *exhibited by the Colonel before a Committee of the Honourable Houſe of Commons.*

THE Nabob repreſented to me the great inconveniencies which ariſe from the Gomaſtahs and dependants of *Engliſh* gentlemen reſiding in his dominions, particularly at *Goruckpoor*, *Mirzapore*, and the *Zemindary of* Banáras *and* Ghazipoor; that he was extremely tender in exerting his authority over any of thoſe who even aſſumed the *Engliſh* name, notwithſtanding that thoſe people were guilty of many impoſitions and extortions on his ſubjects, as well as defrauding him of his duties. Now as he had received repeated aſſurances from the Preſidency, *that no private trade ſhould be carried on in his dominions*, ſo he requeſted, that I would not only exert my power to free his country from the *Armenians* and natives of *Bengal* in the ſervice of individuals, but that I would alſo repreſent the ſame to you, ſo that effectual means might be taken for their expulſion. Senſible of the juſtice of this repreſentation, I did not heſitate to aſſure him, that nothing was farther from the deſign or approbation of the *Engliſh* † *Sirdars*; that I had heard our Preſident made it a point neither to grant

* See Journals of the Houſe of Commons, Vol. XXXIII. Page 937.

† *Engliſh*-Sirdars means *Engliſh*-Chiefs. This was a favourite phraſe of Colonel *Smith*'s, in treating with the country-princes, perhaps to impreſs the idea that the power of the *Engliſh* in *Bengal* was not confined to the Preſident of *Calcutta*.

duſtucks, nor perwânahs into his Excellency's dominions; that no conſideration whatſoever could induce the *Engliſh Chiefs* to ſuffer the advantages or emoluments of individuals to be a means of giving him the moſt diſtant cauſe of uneaſineſs or concern. I aſſured him of my ready concurrence in every meaſure to ſuppreſs the growing evil, and would repreſent it in the ſtrongeſt manner to the Committee, that effectual meaſures might be taken to remove it, and deſired he would apprehend all thoſe who were guilty of any impoſitions in *our name*, which ſo far from giving umbrage to the *Engliſh Sirdars*, would be eſteemed a favour conferred on us. I farther added, that to convince his Excellency how deſirous I was to ſtrike at the root of this evil, on my return to *Illahabad* it ſhould be my care that the perwânah he himſelf had granted to *Iſmaelbeg* (*one of his own ſubjects*, for the excluſive privilege of making ſaltpetre *upon account of* Engliſh *gentlemen*, and upon condition that he furniſhes the Nabob with whatever quantity he wanted at prime coſt) ſhould be returned, that he might be convinced *no private advantages whatſoever could weigh with an* Engliſhman, *which might in the remoteſt degree affect the Public*. The *Nabob ſaid* in anſwer, *that he eſteemed this as a freſh inſtance of attention and regard.*

As I have been informed of theſe circumſtances, not only from the Nabob, but as Rajah *Bulwantſing* has alſo repreſented the late frequency of *Engliſh* duſtucks and *Engliſh* perwânahs; it is but too apparent, notwithſtanding the reſolutions at the Preſidency, that there is an abuſe in this matter: I do therefore moſt earneſtly recommend to the Committee, that they will enter upon the moſt vigorous meaſures for entirely aboliſhing a ſyſtem ſo fraught with pernicious conſequences, and which very ſyſtem had ſo lately proved almoſt fatal to the Company's welfare in *Bengal*. I have the honour to ſubſcribe myſelf, with great reſpect,

GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

Head Quarters near Keirabad, 3d Jan. 1768. (Signed) RICHARD SMITH.

NUM. X.

COPY *of a Letter from* Francis Hare, *Eſq; Second of the Council at* Patna, *to Governor* Verelſt. *Dated the* 18*th* January 1768.

To *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident and Governor, *&c. &c.*

SIR,

HAVING received a letter from Meſſrs. *Alexander* and *Jekyll*, regarding the ſuppoſed right they claim to the ſaltpetre made in Rajah *Bulwantſing*'s country, I take the liberty to lay my caſe before you, relying on the juſtice of my cauſe for redreſs. Long before theſe Gentlemen had any Gomaſtahs in *Bulwantſing*'s country the Rajah had farmed the ſaltpetre buſineſs

to *Cogee Gregore* my Gomaſtah, and he abſolutely *refuſed* granting a perwânah to theſe Gentlemen *till the arrival of your letter in their favour*. Averſe to troubling you where there was a poſſibility of avoiding it, I have hitherto deferred addreſſing you on this ſubject; but when theſe Gentlemen whoſe *pottah* (if they have any) muſt have been later than mine, are willing to exclude me from any ſhare in that trade, my Gomaſtah's previous agreement with the Rajah intitles me to the whole of, I doubt not but your love of juſtice will render any farther apology needleſs.

Incloſed is a copy under the Kazy's ſeal of the pottah my Gomaſtah received from *Bulwantſing*, and no more than three months of the time it was granted for have elapſed, it having been given in the month of *October* laſt, which is the firſt of the *Hindoſtan* year, and the * *Noneahs* had money advanced them ſeveral months before.

The truth of what I have mentioned, the Rajah himſelf, whenever applied to, will at all times be ready to atteſt. I hope therefore, Sir, you will permit me to make uſe of the ſame plea, theſe Gentlemen do, in claiming an excluſive right to the trade granted by this pottah, nor ſuffer them to infringe on my property by ſending their Gomaſtahs to purchaſe ſaltpetre within the limits therein ſpecified.

I am, SIR,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

Patna, 18*th Jan.* 1768. (Signed) FRANCIS HARE.

NUM. XI.

COPY of an affidavit of Mr. Gabriel Johannes, *relative to the firſt perſonal application of Colonel* Richard Smith *to the Nabob* Sujah al Dowlah, *for the baniſhment of* Cogee Johannes Padre Rafael *from* Fyzabad.

" I COGEE GABRIEL JOHANNES, *Armenian*, uncle to *Cogee Rafael*, Mr. *Bolts*'s agent at *Fyzabad*, do ſolemnly declare that my ſaid nephew did write a letter to me from thence, dated the 23d of the *Armenian* month *Ariam*, or the 18th *January* 1768: which letter I received in *Calcutta* the 17th *Oſtan*, or 11th *February* 1768, of which the following is a true extract."

" I am now to acquaint you of the news of this place. Colonel *Smith* " arrived here, and deſired of the Nabob to deliver up the *Armenian Rafael* " to him, or elſe told him to drive him out of his country. I am " much obliged to the Nabob and to the Begum his mother. The Nabob " ſaid to this diſcourſe, what fault has this *Armenian* committed that you " ſpeak ſo ill of him? It is now near two years he is here, and I have never

* The people who collect the impregnated earth, and boil the petre.

" heard the leaſt complaint againſt him. Colonel *Smith* replied to the Nabob, " he is not a well-wiſher of yours, he takes the *Engliſh* name and ſells to " the amount of lacks of rupees, without paying duties. The Nabob then " perceived that this proceeded from envy or malice in that my goods were " ſold before his; that the ſole reaſon for this muſt be, that he wanted to " monopolize the trade. The Nabob was very favourable to me, for he " told the Colonel that he owed a great deal of money to me (*Rafael*) and " had accounts to ſettle. That after ſettling the accounts and paying me " the money, he would tell me that if I would pay duties I may remain, " if not, that I muſt go away. At the ſame time the Nabob-*Begum* ſent " her eunuch to ſee if her ſon the Nabob was going to deliver me up, and " to tell the Colonel, if ſo, that he had no authority over *Rafael*, who is a " poor man. It was by God's mercy that I was not on this occaſion baniſhed " from this country, which would occaſion me great loſs."

And this deponent, *Cogee Gabriel Johannes*, merchant and inhabitant of *Calcutta*, doth hereby ſolemnly make oath, that he will at all times hereafter be ready to prove what he has declared in the preſent affidavit.

(Signed) GABRIEL JOHANNES.

Signed, read, and ſworn to before me in *Calcutta* this 11th day of *May* 1768.

(Signed) CORNELIUS GOODWIN, Mayor.

NUM. XII.

COPY of the Affidavit of Mr. Gregore Cojamaul, *relative to the perſonal Application made in* January 1768, *by Colonel* Richard Smith, *to the Rajah* Bulwantſing, *to baniſh the ſaid* Cojamaul *from his Dominions.*

GREGORE COJAMAUL formerly of the *Eaſt Indies*, but now of *Egham* in the county of *Surry*, Gentleman, maketh oath, and ſaith, that he was for ſeveral years eſtabliſhed as a merchant, and reſident in *Hindoſtan*, and latterly in particular in the provinces of *Ghazipoor* and *Banâras*, being within the territories and juriſdiction of the late Rajah *Bulwantſing*, where he carried on conſiderable buſineſs for himſelf and other perſons, with the intire approbation of the ſaid Rajah, to whom he paid ſuch duties on his trade as the ſaid Rajah was pleaſed to ſtipulate. That during this deponent's reſidence in the ſaid provinces of *Ghazipoor* and *Banáras*, the ſaid Rajah perſonally informed him, this deponent, of ſeveral applications which had been made to him on behalf and in the names of *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; then Governor of *Bengal*, and *Richard Smith*, Eſq; Colonel, and afterwards General in the ſervice of the *Engliſh Eaſt India* Company, for turning him this deponent out of that country, under the denomination of being an agent for Mr. *William*

Bolts, who had alſo formerly been in the ſervice of the ſaid Company. And particularly this deponent ſaith, that ſome time in the month of *January* one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty-eight (to the beſt of his knowledge, remembrance, and belief as to the time) this deponent was at *Banáras*, ſummoned before General *Richard Smith*, the General's *Perſian* interpreter, Mr. *Robert Maddiſon*, and the ſaid Rajah *Bulwantſing* being alſo preſent. That during an interval, while the ſaid *Smith* and *Maddiſon* were in an interior room, the ſaid Rajah called this deponent aſide, and ſaid, "This *Smith* "(uſing an abuſive exclamation againſt the General) wants to have you "turned out of my country; but, in order to protect you, I told him that you "had from eighty to one hundred thouſand rupees outſtanding in the coun-"try," or words to that or the like effect. And this deponent ſaith, that juſt after this converſation was ended, the ſaid General *Smith* and Mr. *Robert Maddiſon* came out of the interior room, and, Mr. *Maddiſon* being interpreter, this deponent was queſtioned, under what authority he acted, and was farther informed by Mr. *Maddiſon*, that there were many complaints againſt this deponent. That thereupon this deponent deſired to know what were the complaints, and by whom made?. to which no anſwer was given him, but the ſaid Rajah inſtantly got up, and ſaid aloud, to the ſaid *Maddiſon*, in preſence of the ſaid General *Smith*, "Sir, I have no com-"plaints againſt this man" (meaning this deponent) "he is one of mine." Whereupon the ſaid *Maddiſon* angrily replied to the ſaid Rajah, in the *Perſian* language, ſaying, "Sir, ſay what you ſaid yeſterday:" to which the Rajah made anſwer: "Sir, what I ſaid yeſterday, I repeat now, I have no "complaints againſt this man," or words to that effect. And this deponent ſaith, that a ſhort time afterwards he was permitted quietly to return home.

(Signed) GREGORE COJAMAUL.

Sworn at the manſion-houſe, *London*, 16th *December* 1773.

(Signed) FREDERICK BULL, Mayor.

NUM. XIII.

COPY of the Proceedings of a Select Committee held at Calcutta, *the 27th January* 1768, *at which Governor* Verelſt *aſſured the Committee he had never granted a Perwânah or Duſtuck for Trade beyond the three Provinces of* Bengal, &c. *and pretending that he had made the Nabob* Sujah al Dowlah *quite independent with regard to the regulation of Trade within his own Dominions.*

Fort William, the 27th January 1768.

At a Select Committee, preſent,

The Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident,
John Cartier,
Richard Becher, and
Charles Ffloyer, Eſquires,

READ three Letters from Colonel *Smith*, under Dates of the 3d, 7th, and 12th Inſtant, as entered after theſe Proceedings.

The

The President informs the Board, that *he has never granted a* * *perwânah or duſtuck for any goods or merchandize, to any perſon beyond the limits of the three provinces*, excepting to officers who were ordered to proceed from hence to join the troops beyond the *Caramnaſſa*, for the tranſportation of their proviſions and other neceſſaries. He lays before us the following extracts of letters he wrote to *Sujah al Dowlah* on this ſubject in *March* and *October* laſt, which he requeſts may be entered upon the face of our proceedings.

EXTRACT of a Letter from Mr. Verelſt *to the Nabob* Sujah al Dowlah. *Dated the 9th* March 1767.

AS the reſidence of the *Engliſh* Gomaſtahs in your Excellency's territories will open a ſource of differences and feuds, I have determined to lay a reſtriction on ſuch inſtances in future.

A true Extract.

(Signed) W. H. COXE, Dep. *Perſian* Tranſl.

EXTRACT of a Letter from Mr. Verelſt *to the Nabob* Sujah al Dowlah. *Written the 10th of* October 1767.

My Gracious Friend,

I UNDERSTAND from Rajah *Purſed Roy*, that, contrary to your inclination and the real intereſt of your country, the ſaltpetre-trade is ſtill carried on by *Engliſh* Gentlemen within your territories. I have before given your Excellency my opinion of ſuch proceedings, and now again aſſure you, that whenever the preſervation of your independency, the aſſertion of your honour, or the ſecurity of your rights and intereſts require it, I am ready with my whole influence and authority in their ſupport; accordingly *you have my intire approbation of every meaſure you may think effectual for the reſtraining this unlicenſed trade, and reſtoring it to the footing preſcribed by your own breaſt*; and ſhould you find any difficulty in effecting this, communicate the names of ſuch as contend with your authority, and I will inforce their obedience by the interpoſition of my own. As your ſincere friend and ally, I am intereſted in the maintenance of your proper dignity, equally with my own; nor would I on any account connive at any thing which may be followed by a loſs to, or attended with a conſtraint on your Excellency.

* See Mr. *Hare*'s letter Number X, Page 354, whereby it appears Mr. *Verelſt* had actually obtained a perwânah from the Rajah *Bul-wantſing* in favour of Meſſrs. *Alexander* and *Jekyll*. See alſo General *Smith*'s letter to Mr. *Verelſt* of the 8th *February* 1768 (Reports, Vol. III. Page 291) whereby it appears Mr. *Verelſt* had alſo obtained from *Sujah al Dowlah* a perwânah in favour of General *Smith* and Mr. *Claud Ruſſell*. See alſo Mr. *Verelſt*'s letter of the 29th *May* 1768, E, Number LXXIII.

These

Theſe few lines I could wiſh you, my friend, to keep always in memory, and conſider them in the place of a thouſand.

A true Extract.

(Signed) W. H. COXE, Dep. *Perſian* Tranſl.

EXTRACT of a Letter to Colonel Smith. *Dated* Fort William, *the 27th* January 1768.

We very much approve of your refuſal of the preſent tendered by *Sujah al Dowlah*, as it is a thing ſo repugnant to the repeated orders of our Honourable Employers, and to the reſolutions of the Select Committee.

Your reply to the Vizier's remonſtrance in regard to the abuſes committed by carrying on a trade in his country to the prejudice of his revenue, meets with our intire approbation. We are the more aſtoniſhed at ſuch an abuſe, as *our Preſident aſſures us that he has granted no perwânahs or duſtucks extending beyond the provinces*, but to the officers who proceed thither for their proviſions and other neceſſaries.

He has laid before the Committee an extract and copy of his letters to *Sujah al Dowlah*, written in *March* and *October* laſt, which we incloſe for your peruſal. We have deſired our Preſident to requeſt he will point out to him the perſons who are carrying on any trade in his dominions. We alſo deſire you will give immediate orders to ſuch Gomaſtahs uſing the name of *Engliſh* Gentlemen, to quit that country; and ſhould you find any of them refractory in complying therewith, you will be pleaſed to tranſmit to us the names of them, and of thoſe perſons alſo for whom they are employed. And we wiſh you had been more explicit on this ſubject in your letter of the 3d, wherein this grievance is complained of."

NUM. XIV.

COPY of an Affidavit of Job Nicola, *a* Georgean *Merchant, relative to the Applications made to the Nabob* Sujah al Dowlah, *for the expulſion of* Cogee Rafael *and others, and the Nabob's Conduct thereupon.*

JOB NICOLA, the ſon of *Nicola*, a *Georgean*, ſolemnly declares, that in the month of *February* paſt he was at *Fyzabad*, and uſed frequently to go along with Mr. *William Bolts*'s agent, *Cogee Joannes Padre Rafael*, into the Durbar of *Sujah al Dowlah*; that particularly on three different times that he went there, he perſonally heard the ſaid Nabob diſcourſe upon the frequent applications which had been made to him, troubling him to ſeize and ſend away Mr. *Bolts*'s people out of his country: the Nabob, on one occaſion, told *Cogee Rafael*, "That the *Engliſh* Gentlemen are very deſirous of ſending

"you

" you out of my country. You had beſt enter into my ſervice to protect " your perſon and property, or you will be brought to trouble and loſs." Thoſe words the Nabob himſelf ſaid to the ſaid *Rafael*, in his the deponent's hearing and preſence. This deponent declares farther, that he, on ſeveral occaſions, likewiſe heard from the prime Miniſters of the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah*, that Colonel *Smith*, when at *Fyzabad*, had applied to the Nabob, requiring him to deliver up to him *Cogee Rafael*, and alſo *Cogee Melcomb*, who was at *Banáras*; that the Nabob had anſwered, that theſe poor people had done no fault; why ſhould he do ſo? That Colonel *Smith* had replied, they do not give you duties; that the Nabob had replied, that he owed money to *Rafael*, how could he ſend him away? This deponent further ſays, that *Cogee Rafael*, on account of theſe applications to get him out of the country, went to the Nabob's mother, the Begum, who was favourable to him; that he this deponent was preſent with the ſaid *Rafael*, on one viſit to the Begum; that *Cogee Rafael* ſent into the Begum's apartments a Nuzzer, and requeſted ſhe would favour him with her protection from violence and oppreſſion; that the Begum ſent one of her eunuchs with an anſwer, telling *Cogee Rafael*, " that you have nothing " to fear from any *Hindoſtany*; but if the *Engliſh* force you (or uſe force) or " inſiſt, you are helpleſs." This deponent further declares, that he knows that the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah* always behaved with much favour to *Cogee Rafael*; and he is of opinion, that if any violence has happened to him, it has ſolely been occaſioned by the applications of the *Engliſh* Gentlemen.

And he this deponent, *Job Nicola*, merchant, and at preſent reſiding in *Calcutta*, doth make oath, that the matters and facts contained in this affidavit are true, and he will at any time hereafter, when called upon, prove the ſame.

(Signed) JOB NICOLA.

Signed, explained, read, and ſworn to before me in *Calcutta*, this 11th day of *May* 1768.

(Signed) CORNELIUS GOODWIN, Mayor.

NUM. XV.

COPY of a Letter from Francis Hare, *Eſq; to Governor* Verelſt. *Dated* Patna, *the* 2*d* February 1768.

" To *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident and Governor, *&c. &c.*

SIR,

I DID myſelf the honour of addreſſing you under date the 18th *ultimo*, ſince which *Bulwantſing* has taken a mutchulca from *Cogee Gregore* (my Gomaſtah at *Chowſah*) not to buy ſaltpetre, though he before gave him the pottah, of

of which I incloſed you a copy, under the Kazy's ſeal, and ſays, *he muſt not trade there without your perwânah.* As the greateſt part of my fortune is already advanced for this article, and *no orders have hitherto been iſſued againſt trading in it*, I hope, Sir, you will pardon the trouble I have and am giving you, nor ſuffer the hand of oppreſſion to ſeize an almoſt ALL that the late fire in *Patna* left me. I will treſpaſs no longer on your time, than to beg your perwanâh for that article, and ſuch other aſſiſtance as you may judge moſt neceſſary for gaining redreſs.

I am, SIR,

Patna, 2*d Feb.* 1768. Your moſt obedient ſervant,

(Signed) FRANCIS HARE."

NUM. XVI.

COPY of a Letter from Harry Verelſt, *Eſq*; *Governor at* Calcutta, *to* Bulwantſing, *the Rajah of* Banáras. *Dated the* 19*th* February 1768.

I CANNOT help being aſtoniſhed *to find from Colonel* Smith's *letters*, that duſtucks and perwânahs under the *Engliſh* name, are current in your diſtricts, and that Gomaſtahs commit frequent extortions and oppreſſions under that ſanction. After the plain directions which I gave your Vakeel at *Murſhedabad*, I am very much ſurprized that you ſhould have neglected to inform me of theſe practices. I now therefore poſitively write to you, *that I will neither grant myſelf, nor ſuffer others to grant any duſtucks with the* Engliſh *ſeal for the conveyance of any goods to any part of the Nabob* Sujah al Dowlah's *territories*, only for ſuch neceſſaries as may be occaſionally going to the army. And I muſt farther direct you to tranſmit me a copy of all duſtucks for neceſſaries the inſtant they come to your hands, that no room for evaſion or pretence may remain, as I have frequent complaints from the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah*, that divers people aſſume the name of *Engliſh* Gomaſtahs. I therefore deſire that you would iſſue poſitive orders, throughout your diſtricts, for all ſuch offenders to withdraw themſelves without delay: and *you will immediately cauſe* * Cogee Melcomb *and* Cogee Gregore, *and a* Bengally *named* Ramſoncore, *to be ſent down under confinement, to* Maharajah † Shetabroy, for none of theſe people have any title to reſidence within the territories of the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah.*

On a RUKAH.

I am informed that Monſieur *Canonge*, a *Frenchman*, is now reſident, and carrying on a trade in *French* commodities at *Mirzapore.* I am aſtoniſhed

* *Melcomb Philip*, *Gregore Cojamaul*, and *Ramſoncore Chattorgee*, who acted as the agents of *William Bolts.*

† The Company's collector of the revenues, under Mr. *Rumbold*, at *Patna.*

that you ſhould PERMIT *French* merchandize to paſs *without duties*, and *French* Gomaſtahs to reſide *WITHOUT AUTHORITY. I therefore write to you to ſend down the aforeſaid *Frenchman* without delay to *Patna*, and levy *the eſtabliſhed dūties*. You muſt give proper attention likewiſe, to prevent any of your people from embezzling the effects and goods which he may leave behind him.

NUM. XVII.

ABSTRACT of a Letter from the King Shah Allum, *at* Illahabad, *to* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq*; *Received by him the 23d* February 1768.

"ACQUAINTING Mr. *Verelſt* that one † *Iſmaelbeg* has engroſſed the whole trade of ſaltpetre under the ſanction of the *Engliſh*: and deſiring to be informed on what authority he really acts?"

NUM. XVIII.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of a Select Committee, relative to the pacific Diſpoſitions of the Nabob Sujah al Dowlah, *and the Hardſhip of ſuddenly expelling the Gomaſtahs from his Dominions; and granting Leave to Colonel* Smith, *Commander in Chief under the Preſidency, to come down to* Calcutta, *in order to prepare for* Europe. *Dated the 23d* February 1768.

Fort William, the 23d February 1768.

At a Select Committee, preſent,

The Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident,
John Cartier,
Francis Sykes,
Richard Becher, and
Charles Floyer, Eſquires.

READ three letters received from Colonel *Smith*, under dates of the 6th 7th, and 8th inſtant, as entered after the proceedings.

Agreed, That they be replied to in the manner following:

* As the permiſſion of this Rajah was given, in Preſident *Verelſt*'s eſtimation, without authority, it would appear the Preſident aimed at aſſuming the government of the Rajah's dominions.

† The Gomaſtah of the copartners, Meſſrs. Colonel *Richard Smith* and *Claud. Ruſſell*. As it did not anſwer Mr. *Verelſt*'s purpoſe to exhibit a full and true tranſlation of this letter on the Company's records, he has only given the above abſtract. The reader will ſee many inſtances of this ſort of abſtracts throughout this Appendix.

To

To Colonel *Richard Smith*, Commander in Chief under the Presidency.

SIR,

We have been favoured with your letters of the 6th, 7th, and 8th instant. The frequent representations you have made, and urged so strongly, of the suspicions you entertained of *Sujah al Dowlah*'s conduct, could not but convince us, until we received your letter of the 7th *ultimo*, that you was thoroughly persuaded of the truth of such reports, whatever might have been the opinion of the Select Committee to the contrary. You therein say, (alluding to a preceding letter of the 3d) "from thence and my prior letters "you will perceive there is no possibility of any disturbances from that quarter "for the present, where appearances were once so alarming."

This sentiment, so apparently contrary to what you had before expressed, coming immediately after your interview with *Sujah al Dowlah*, led us naturally to believe that he had so far convinced you of the rectitude of his conduct, as to induce you to deem erroneous the reports you had heard to his prejudice. Far was it from our intention, when we made our remark on that occasion, to throw any imputation on your character or honour; and we are utterly at a loss to conceive how you could have construed it in the light you have; for whatever sentiments the Select Committee or you may entertain of the Vizier's conduct, they are at most but mere matters of opinion; and be they one or the other, right or wrong, they cannot be deemed a crime in either.

Since our directions to you, under date of the 27th *January*, for expelling the several gomastahs who are carrying on a trade in *Sujah al Dowlah*'s country, we have considered that a too hasty removal of them, without being allowed some few days for the adjustment of their affairs, may prove highly prejudicial to their constituents. We have therefore issued general orders to the Chiefs of the several subordinates, to recal those gomastahs without delay: and we shall also pursue such measures as will inforce those orders in the ampleſt and most expeditious manner, so as to prevent every thing of the kind in future.

We have been induced to send orders through this channel, *from your requesting permission to come to the Presidency, in order to prepare for* * Europe, which you have our permission to do.

* It would seem the Colonel was disgusted at his disappointment in the saltpetre trade. But out of tender regard to the Company's welfare, he afterwards relented from his severe resolution of going home, and continued to *serve them* until *December* 1769.

The letters you have ſent us from Captains *Kinderſley* and *Roach* will be taken into conſideration after the departure of the ſhip now under diſpatch for *Europe*.

We are, with eſteem, Sir,
Your moſt obedient humble ſervants,

Fort William,
the 23d Feb. 1768.

(Signed) H. VERELST,
JOHN CARTIER,
FRANCIS SYKES,
RICHARD BECHER,
CHARLES FFLOYER.

NUM. XIX.

COPY of a Letter from Governor Harry Verelſt *to* Francis Hare, *Eſq; at* Patna; *reprimanding him for trading in the Rajah* Bulwantſing's *Country, as contrary to the Regulations of the Select Committee and the Orders of the* Eaſt India *Directors, and directing him to deliver the* Armenians *over to* Shetabroy, *to be ſent down, under a Guard. Dated* Calcutta, *the* 24*th* Feb. 1768.

To *Francis Hare*, Eſq; at *Patna*.

SIR,

IN anſwer to your two former letters, concerning your trade, gomaſtahs, *&c.* in *Bulwantſing*'s country, it is with the greateſt ſurprize I find you *avowedly engaged in a commerce ſo fundamentally contradictory to the regulations of the Committee, and the public orders from home.* I am, however, ſtill more aſtoniſhed to find you have entertained certain *Armenians* for this purpoſe in your ſervice, *againſt whom I have received various and repeated complaints*; and I therefore direct you poſitively, and on pain of forfeiture of the ſervice, to recal them without delay, and *deliver them over to* Shetabroy, *to be ſent hither, under a guard.*

I am, *&c.*

(Signed) H. VERELST.

NUM. XX.

COPY of a Letter from Harry Verelſt, *Eſq; to the Nabob* Sujah al Dowlah. *Dated the* 27*th* February 1768.

I AM much *ſurprized to learn, from Colonel* Smith, that divers people, taking the name of *Engliſh* gomaſtahs, have been guilty of great villanies and extortions in your Excellency's country. *Of this I was before entirely unacquainted,*

or

or I would have endeavoured to have remedied it: nor has any one authority from me, *nor will I in future give any, either for trade or reſidence, in your Excellency's country.* I muſt therefore make it my particular requeſt, that, ſhould any one take the *Engliſh* name as a ſcreen for his mal-practices, you will immediately cauſe him to be apprehended and ſent hither, that his falſhood may meet it's due puniſhment. You cannot oblige me more than by detecting theſe impoſtors. I write this ſo poſitively and ſtrongly, that you may ſee how very attentive I am to cut off all occaſion of uneaſineſs to you.

On a * RUKAH.

I learn that two *Armenians*, named *Cogee Rafael* and *Cogee Eſtephan*, are reſident at *Fyzabad*, and carrying on a trade there. *As this tribe are of a bad caſt, and their principles only falſhood*, I requeſt that you will give them no countenance, but cauſe theſe men to be ſpeedily apprehended and *ſent hither*, or *iſſue your orders to Captain* Harper for that purpoſe. As there is no ſeparation between us, I doubt not *you will oblige me* in this matter.

NUM. XXI.

EXTRACT of a Letter from Colonel Richard Smith *to* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq; Dated at* Meer Abſul's, *near* Patna, *the* 9*th* March 1768; *as given by Mr.* Verelſt, *in the* Appendix *to his Book, Page* 206, *Num.* 118.

"AFTER the very ſtrong repreſentations made by *Sujah al Dowlah* TO ME, concerning *Armenians* and other gomaſtahs, you will be ſurprized when I tell you, that to one of thoſe very men, whom, two months ſince, he intended to chaſe from the country by a guard of † *Engliſh* ſeapoys, he has lately granted a penſion of three hundred rupees *per* month. I have heard that *Purſed Roy* has ſome communication with *Cogee* ‡ *Petruſe*."

NUM. XXII.

COPY of a Letter from Harry Verelſt, *Eſq; to the Nabob* Sujah al Dowlah. *Dated the* 10*th* March 1768.

I BEFORE wrote your Excellency how deſirous I was of cutting off all cauſe of uneaſineſs to you *from people trading in your country* under the name of the *Engliſh*. And the more effectually to carry this into execution, I HAVE

* Mr. *Verelſt* has *prudently* ſuppreſſed this RUKAH in his Appendix, Num 85, Page 187.

† *Sujah al Dowlah*'s army of thirty thouſand men, which at other times was repreſented as very formidable, on the preſent occaſion is inſufficient for ſeizing one unprotected and defenceleſs *Armenian* merchant.

‡ *Purſed Roy* was the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah*'s Ambaſſador in *Calcutta*. He was no Necromancer himſelf, but ſometimes viſited and converſed with *Cogee Petruſe*, who, being deemed a great proficient in the *Black Art*, might have made unfavourable diſcoveries.

DIRECTED

DIRECTED MR. RUMBOLD, Chief of *Patna*, to ſend a truſty perſon to your Court, the better to detect ſuch impoſtors. If it is agreeable to you, the aforeſaid Vakeel will remain in your preſence: and ſhould any one be guilty of any impoſition or oppreſſion in the *Engliſh* name, *you will iſſue your orders to* **him, and he will, without delay, inform his maſter thereof*, and immediate meaſures will be taken for the puniſhment of the offenders. If this does not meet with your approbation, you will *ſeize the offenders yourſelf and ſend them to me*: and from my *zeal* in puniſhing them you will judge of my friendſhip. *As every thing I do in this affair is ſolely with a view to your ſatisfaction, I leave this matter to your option.*

NUM. XXIII.

COPY of a Letter from Francis † Hare, *Eſq; to* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq; Dated* Patna, *the 12th* March 1768.

" To *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident and Governor, *&c. &c.*

SIR,

HAD you been pleaſed to have indulged me with permiſſion to ſay any thing in vindication of the trade you mention to be contradictory to the Company's orders from home, as well as the regulations of the Select Committee, I flatter myſelf I ſhould have been able to have alleged ſomething in my behalf that might have ſoftened the edge of your reſentment; and hope ſtill, by the following explanation of the motives that induced me to carry on a trade in *Bulwantſing*'s country, to make my having entered into it appear in a far leſs diſadvantageous light than you ſeem at preſent to view it in.

Till the receipt of your order, under date of the 24th *ultimo*, *I was utterly a ſtranger to this trade's having been prohibited either by the Company or the Select Committee*; to the regulations of both which I have at all times paid the ſtricteſt obedience: and what confirmed me in an opinion that it could not have been illicit was, the eagerneſs with which it was proſecuted by ſeveral Company's ſervants at the ſame time and in the ſame places. As to my having employed *Armenians* in my ſervice, I did not imagine that the Company's orders relating to them *were to be underſtood to extend beyond the Provinces*, eſpecially as theſe very gomaſtahs were known to be employed a long time by Mr. *Bolts*. In obedience to your commands, I have immediately ordered them down: but as a large ſum of money is already advanced for different articles of trade in this country, I muſt intreat your permiſſion to ſend a *Bengal* gomaſtah to collect in my outſtanding debts, and diſpatch ſuch goods as are al-

* Mr. *Verelſt* could not have impoſed a greater indignity upon this Nabob. See what he writes in anſwer to the Nabob's ſubſequent complaints againſt this " TRUSTY" ſuperintendant, E, Num. LXXXIII.

† The Reader will pleaſe to remark, that in his Appendix, Page 188, Num. LXXXVII, *&c.* Mr. *Verelſt* has been pleaſed to ſelect only ſuch lines of Mr. *Hare*'s letters to him as would ſerve his purpoſe. We have therefore given theſe letters at length.

ready purchaſed down to me. You will pardon I hope, Sir, the length of this addreſs; and when the greateſt part of my fortune, and when the employ I hold in the ſervice, on which it depends, is at ſtake, not deem this attempt towards a vindication of myſelf either unbecoming or improper.

I am, SIR,

Your moſt obedient ſervant

Patna, *the* 12*th March* 1768. (Signed) FRANCIS HARE.

NUM. XXIV.

* *EXTRACT of a Letter from Captain* Gabriel Harper *to* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq*; *Dated* Fyzabad, *the* 14*th* March 1768.

THE Nabob has acquainted me, that ſome people at † *Goruckpoor*, having taken upon them to ſay they are gomaſtahs of *Engliſh* gentlemen, are guilty of many irregularities, to the prejudice of his ſervants: he has therefore applied to me for a guard of ſeapoys to apprehend and bring them to *Fyzabad*, that their behaviour may be inquired into. I have complied with the Nabob's deſire, by *ſupplying him* with a Jemadar and twenty ſeapoys. *It will not be improper here to acquaint you, that there are ſeveral* Armenians *at* Banáras, *and one or two at this place, who often make uſe of the* Engliſh *name for a ſanction to the behaviour which they would not otherwiſe dare to practiſe.* The Nabob has often told me he would expel them his dominions: but *I apprehend he will be* ‡ *tardy in doing this*, as I learn that they are very communicative in what they hear

* See Appendix to *Verelſt*'s View, Page 189.

† Theſe were gomaſtahs ſent up by Mr. *Thomas Rumbold*, who has mentioned them *ſlightly* in his evidence. See Journals of the Houſe of Commons, Vol. XXXIII. Page 916.

‡ The Reader will be pleaſed to contraſt the above letter with General *Smith*'s evidence before a Committee of the Honourable Houſe of Commons, which was as follows. See Journals, Vol. XXXIII. Page 940.

" *Q.* Did *Sujah al Dowlah* iſſue the orders for the removal of the *Armenian* gomaſtahs in " general from his dominions?

" *A.* The orders were iſſued by the Select Committee; but ſome months PRIOR to thoſe " orders, *Sujah al Dowlah had applied for a guard to take up ſome people at Banáras*, as ap- " pears by a letter from Captain *Harper*, of the 6th *January* 1768, as follows:

" To Colonel *Richard Smith*, Commander in Chief of the Forces.

" SIR,

" THE Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah* has applied to me for a guard to apprehend ſome people " at *Banáras*, who, under pretence of being ſervants to *Engliſh* gentlemen, are committing " all manner of diſturbances. I have not complied with his Excellency's requeſt, and wait " your orders to know whether I may ſend the guard he deſires or not.

" I have the honour to be,

Camp, near Fyzabad, *the* 6*th Jan.* 1768.

" With great reſpect, SIR,

" Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

(Signed) GABRIEL HARPER."

It

hear from *Calcutta*, and which, with their own embelliſhments, is conveyed to the Nabob through *Meer Maſhallah*, who was formerly *Coſſim Ally Khawn*'s, and now his Excellency's Phyſician; and that it is by his influence the Nabob is diverted from putting his former deſign, of turning them out of his territories, in execution. It is well known how deſigning and intriguing a ſet of people the *Armenians* are: and *I do not think it improbable, that, if they are permitted to reſide* in the Nabob's country, they may be the cauſe of diſputes with him. *If you approve of writing to the Nabob on this ſubject, I dare ſay he will expel them*, as he has already expreſſed to me how glad he ſhould be to have them turned away."

NUM. XXV.

TRANSLATION, from the Bengal *Language, of an Extract of a Letter from* Ramſoncore *to* William Bolts. *Dated* Chowſah, *the* 17*th* March 1768; *as exhibited and proved before a Committee of the Honourable* Houſe of Commons.*

"Extract of a Letter from *Ramſoncore Chattorgee*. Dated at *Chowſah*, the 17th *March* 1768, to *William Bolts*.

WHAT ſhall I write you of the news from *Banáras?* I have received a letter from the perſon I left at *Banáras*, dated the ſecond of *Choytro:* he has wrote to me that a perwânah has come from the Governor of *Calcutta*, upon the Rajah, ordering him to confine under a guard whatever people of Mr. *Bolts*'s are in thoſe parts, and ſend them to *Calcutta*. On this account, on the firſt of *Choytro*, a peon of the *Rajah*'s came to demand *Cogee Melcomb* and me; upon his not finding me there, he took *Cogee Melcomb*, and confined him. They were ſeizing my people who are there, and going to carry them away, but Mr. *Jekyll* and Mr. *Alexander*'s gomaſtah, named *Soobharam Paulit*, who was there, ſaid, "theſe people can give no account of affairs, they are only here to watch the warehouſe;" upon hearing of which they then deſiſted. After hearing what paſſed afterwards, I ſhall write you the news. If I go to *Banáras* they will certainly confine me under a guard; and if I am ſtigmatized, all outſtanding debts, wherever they lie, will vaniſh. I therefore deſire you will procure and ſend a perwânah from the Governor there upon the Rajah, that I

It is evident the Colonel meant that this letter ſhould be applied to the *Armenians* employed by Mr. *Bolts*; which clearly appears to have been the drift of his whole evidence, as well as of all the informations given by Captain *Harper:* and it muſt be remarked, that none but the *Armenians* under that deſcription were ſeized at *Banáras* or elſewhere. We therefore here ſee, under the hand of the ſame perſon, that in *March* 1768 "the Nabob would be tardy" in doing a particular act, for which he had made application in *January* preceding. The firſt *public* orders of the Preſident, for the baniſhment of the *Armenian* merchants who acted as the Writer's agents, were recorded at the Conſultation of the 10th *December* 1767, and thoſe of the Secret Committee were of the 22d *December* 1767: but the application here firſt noticed by Capt. *Harper* on the 6th *January* 1768 is ſaid to be PRIOR to thoſe ORDERS.

* See Journals, Vol. XXXIII. Page 920.

may

may remain at *Banáras* for one month, ſettle all my outſtanding affairs, and come away. If this is not done, there will be great difficulties. I am your ſervant; what was requiſite I have ſet forth. You are maſter; whatever is proper, do it quickly. If they carry me away under the confinement of a guard, it is matter of no ſhame to me; for I have not beat any body, neither have I robbed any body, that I ſhould fear to go to *Banáras*. But if I go, and, with, or without juſtice am put into confinement, and ſent to *Calcutta*, your buſineſs will ſuffer much, and there will be loſſes. Underſtanding this, you will pleaſe ſoon to furniſh the neceſſary."

NUM. XXVI.

EXTRACT of a Letter from Captain Gabriel Harper *to* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq*; *Dated* Fyzabad, *the* 20*th* March 1768, *as given in Mr.* Verelſt's Appendix, *Page* 206.

"HIS *Excellency deſired me to acquaint you, that he eſteems himſelf much obliged for the care you are at to prevent any perſons taking on them the *Engliſh* name, to the prejudice of his ſervants. His Excellency's reply to your letter I have juſt received, and now incloſe: Cogee Rafael *the* Armenian *was lately taken into the Nabob's ſervice*, through the influence of the phyſician *Meer Maſhallah*, and allowed three hundred rupees *per* month. I ſhall take particular care to ſee that *his Excellency's order* for ſending the two † Armenians *away be properly enforced*."

NUM. XXVII.

ABSTRACT of a Letter from the Rajah Bulwantſing *to* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq*; *Received the* 22*d* March 1768.

"AFTER acknowledging the receipt of Mr. *Verelſt*'s letter (B, Number XII. ‡) your ſervant is always devoted to your high will and pleaſure. Cogee Melcomb, *who was in* Banáras, *is apprehended agreeably to your commands.* People are already ſent to ſeize upon Monſieur *Canonge* in *Mirzapore*. *Cogee Melcomb* declares, that *Cogee Gregore* has been ſome time gone to *Patna*. *I have ſent proper people in queſt of* Ramſoncore, who I hear is in the diſtricts of *Ghazipoor*, and I will immediately diſperſe the perwânahs you have commanded, throughout all my dependencies. Hereafter the particulars ſhall be duly repreſented."

* The Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah*.
† One of whom was juſt "*taken into the Nabob's ſervice*."
‡ So marked in the Company's Records.

NUM. XXVIII.

TRANSLATION, from the Perſian, *of an original Order, under the Hand and Seal of Captain* Gabriel Harper, *at* Fyzabad, *upon his ſeizing of* Cogee Johannes Padre Rafael, *on the 27th* March 1768, *and ſending him Priſoner, under a Guard of* Engliſh *Seapoys, to Colonel Sir* Robert Barker, *at* Illahabad; *as proved before a Committee of the Honourable* * *Houſe of Commons.*

Directed "To *Rafael*," Sealed "Captain *Gabriel Harper*."

TRUSTY among friends, greeting. I have received, and am acquainted with the purport of your letter about your going.—Send your neceſſaries to ſuch place as you think beſt; and if you yourſelf are ready for going, it is neceſſary that to-morrow morning, two hours before day-light, you mount and come to me, under charge of Colonel *Barker*'s ſeapoys, that I may ſend you to *Illahabad*. Thoſe ſeapoys appointed only for this, are ſtaying with impatience in this place, that they may deliver you to the Colonel with themſelves.—What more ſhall I write?

(Signed) GABRIEL HARPER.

NUM. XXIX.

COPY of a Letter from Harry Verelſt, *Eſq; to the Rajah* Bulwantſing. *Dated the 27th* March 1768.

I AM lately informed, that you *have ſtopped ſeveral boats* even with military ſtores, *though they had* Engliſh *duſtucks; and have demanded duties from the Merchants ſelling diamonds to Mr.* † Chamier, though he has the Nabob's perwânah to exempt him therefrom. A reſpect to the *Engliſh* ſeal is due from you on all occaſions; and whenever, therefore, *any duſtucks ſhall come, you will paſs the boats without delay, and ſend a copy of the* ‡ *duſtuck to me*; and I will take care no abuſe is made. The Nabob has a right to your obedience in every thing: and it is therefore a high offence to act in contradiction to his commands. You will therefore abſtain from ſuch behaviour, and pay a due regard to all his orders in future.

* See Journals, Vol. XXXIII. Page 921.

† Mr. *Verelſt*'s agent, ſtationed at *Banáras*, for the purchaſe of diamonds.

‡ The Reader has already been ſhewn Mr. *Verelſt*'s ſolemn aſſurances that he had not, and would not, grant any permiſſions for trade beyond the three provinces of *Bengal, Bahar*, and *Oriſſa*. See Numbers XIII, XVI, and XX of this Letter E.

NUM.

NUM. XXX.

COPY of a Letter from Harry Verelſt, *Eſq; to the Nabob* Sujah al Dowlah. *Dated the 27th* March 1768.

IT is with the greateſt ſurpriſe I learn, from certain intelligence, that Mr. *Bolts* has procured from *Fyzabad* copies of a number of letters I wrote your Excellency. This matter is of the moſt ſerious moment, and plainly ſhews there are ſome traitors about your perſon, who diſcover the ſecrets they are intruſted with. As you may certainly depend upon this, I particularly deſire you will make ſtrict inquiry into the affair, and puniſh the offenders in the moſt exemplary manner: ſeeing, if a man of ſo little conſequence as Mr. *Bolts* can thus penetrate into the ſecrets of your correſpondence, how much more eaſy can it be for men of ſuperior influence and importance to do the ſame. I again recommend this matter to your ſerious attention; and as a guide to your inquiry, I have ſome reaſon to believe that *Meer Maſhallah* and the *Armenians* have been the chief inſtruments in effecting this.

NUM. XXXI.

EXTRACT of a Letter from Captain Gabriel Harper *to* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq; Dated* Fyzabad, *the 29th* March 1768; *as inſerted by Mr.* Verelſt *in his Appendix, Page* 206.

"I HAD the honour to addreſs you, on the 20th inſtant, on the ſubject of the *Armenians*, and incloſing a ſtatement of the Nabob's military force. I am now to acquaint you, that his Excellency, being informed that the two *Armenians*, *Rafael* and *Eſtephan*, intended, inſtead of complying with his orders to go down, to remove from hence to * *Furrokhabad*, applied to me, the day before yeſterday, for a guard to apprehend them. *I immediately ſent ſeapoys, and the* Armenians *are now in cuſtody.* His Excellency has deſired me to let them remain ten days, to ſettle their buſineſs, and then ſend them *priſoners* to *Patna*; which I ſhall accordingly do."

* The reader muſt be informed that *Furrokhabad* is a city in another independent Prince's dominions, 170 miles to the north-weſtward of *Fyzabad*; but it was not true, that they were going to any ſuch place. In his letter of the 20th *March* 1768, Captain *Harper* adviſes Governor *Verelſt* that the Nabob had taken *Cogee Rafael* into his ſervice. By this letter it appears, that nine days afterwards, the Nabob, who was no way deficient in perſonal courage, and had an army of near thirty thouſand men to back him, was under the neceſſity of applying to CAPTAIN HARPER for a guard to apprehend his own defenceleſs ſervant; who, when he was about to quit the dominions *where he had committed ſo many crimes*, was not permitted to go his own way, nor was he detained there for puniſhment, but ſent priſoner to *Patna*, where *thoſe pretended crimes* could not be cognizable by any law upon earth.

NUM. XXXII.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq; on the Impriſonment of his* Armenian *Agents. Dated* Calcutta, *the* 30*th* March 1768; *as* * *exhibited before a Committee of the Honourable Houſe of Commons.*

To *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident and Governor of *Fort William.*

SIR,

THE extraordinary intelligence which I have lately received from *Owd*, *Illahabad*, and *Banáras* puts me to the neceſſity of troubling you with this letter, addreſſed to you in your public character.

I am informed, from the beſt authority and moſt ſubſtantial proofs, that *Sujah al Dowlah* and *Bulwantſing* have ſeized and confined a number of people, under the denomination of Mr. *Bolts*'s agents and gomaſtahs; not for any cauſe of complaint they have againſt them, but ſolely, as they declare they do it, by virtue of orders received from *Calcutta*.

The conſequence thereof is, that many people, who have all of them no other fault than that of having formerly ſerved me, have been confined and ill treated; ſome who are merchants and inhabitants of that country on their own accounts, many that are now in the ſervice of other merchants and *Engliſh* gentlemen; and ſome few who are actually my Gomaſtahs, and have charge of the recovery (and that only) of my outſtanding debts, *amounting to about one hundred and fifty thouſand rupees.* The concerns of other gentlemen and thoſe of the merchants themſelves, who are thus innocently oppreſſed, in conſequence of theſe orders, muſt amount to a much more conſiderable ſum.

As thoſe who execute them diſavow theſe unheard-of acts, which would even diſgrace a *Mooriſh* Government, I am as yet willing to imagine it muſt have been occaſioned by their miſconſtruction of the orders given from hence.

If any act of Government had made it neceſſary to ſeize and bring down all *Engliſh* Gomaſtahs indiſcriminately from the Dominions of *Sujah al Dowlah*, I ſhould have no reaſon to wonder at, or remonſtrate to the proceedings againſt thoſe who are really my Gomaſtahs; while there would yet be reaſon for ſurprize, at the ſeizing thoſe who are not ſo, and independant merchants. But while your own Gomaſtah for Diamonds, and others for ſaltpetre, ophium, *&c.* who call themſelves Gomaſtahs of Colonels *Smith* and *Barker*, with thoſe of Meſſrs. *Rumbold*, *Ruſſell*, *Alexander*, *Fſloyer*, *Maddiſon*, *Chamier*, and many other both civil and military gentlemen, are not only permitted but protected, even with force, in carrying on their trade in thoſe parts; the thus ſingling out mine, with extraordinary acts of ſeverity, would ſeem to imply that they have been guilty of ſome extraordinary faults to deſerve it.

* See Journals, Vol. XXXIII. Page 921.

If

If therefore my Gomaſtahs have been guilty of any miſbehaviour, to deſerve ſuch ſevere orders being iſſued from hence, I requeſt you will pleaſe to acquaint me therewith, and who are the tranſgreſſors, that I may immediately diſmiſs them, and appoint others in their room, to ſuperintend the collection of my balances outſtanding.

But if it be only a miſunderſtanding (on the part of *Sujah al Dowlah* and *Bulwantſing*) of the orders which have been ſent from hence, I requeſt a letter to both thoſe Princes, that thoſe who are my Gomaſtahs may have the ſame protection as yours, and thoſe of the before-mentioned gentlemen, or of other ſubjects; and my property be equally as ſecure. And in the mean time, ſo well am I perſwaded of their good behaviour, that I will be anſwerable (and even, if required, enter into a bond) for the good conduct of all ſuch as are mine; not only for any their acts of tranſgreſſion of the laws of *Great Britain*, but of thoſe of the country-government alſo, which, as it appears to me all that can be required, I hope will be ſatisfactory.

In the mean time, whatever may have been the orders from hence, as I am very apprehenſive they may have been occaſioned by the miſrepreſentations which may have been made to you by the gentlemen competitors for the ſaltpetre trade, particularly by * Mr. *Robert Maddiſon*, and his agent, Mr. *John Chamier*; the former of whom, during his viſit to *Sujah al Dowlah*'s court, has been trying every method (in conſequence of the influence gained over *Sujah al Dowlah*, by his poſt in the †*munſhy khaneh*) to engroſs as much as poſſible of the ſaltpetre made in that Prince's dominions: it may not be amiſs to give you information of the real ſtate of my concerns.

Having, during my ſtay at *Banâras*, perceived, from the aptitude of that country to produce ſaltpetre, that great improvements might be there made in that branch, I applied myſelf with ſome attention to the cultivation of it, and with ſuch ſucceſs, as ſoon made it the object of men more powerful than myſelf. After my quitting *Banâras*, diſputes ſoon aroſe among the competitors, whereby I became a very great loſer, notwithſtanding I was *the only perſon who ſatisfied the country-government for their duties*. Aggrieved by thoſe proceedings, I addreſſed myſelf to Colonel *Smith*, in a letter ſo long ago as the ‡ 13th *May* 1767, to which, however, I never received any anſwer, owing, as I have reaſon to believe, from what I have ſince diſcovered, to his being a party concerned, who could not give me redreſs without injuring his own concerns.

This ſaltpetre concern was one of thoſe of which I formerly gave an account to the Select Committee. In the mean time, foreſeeing, from the behaviour of the different Gomaſtahs, that the intereſts of the country and of the Company would be greatly injured by their quarrels, and apprehenſive that they would in the end occaſion complaints from *Sujah al Dowlah* and *Bulwantſing*, of the ſame pernicious nature as thoſe formerly made by *Coſſim Aly Khawn*; and thereby make it neceſſary for the Government at *Calcutta* to withdraw all Gomaſtahs from thoſe quarters; I ſay, apprehenſive of thoſe evils, and forced

* The writer did not then know that alſo General *Smith*, Mr. *Claud Ruſſell*, and Captain *Harper* were all combined to poſſeſs themſelves of the whole trade in ſaltpetre.

† The office for the tranſlation of *Perſian* letters.

‡ See E, Page 345.

by

by other oppreſſions, of which I ſhall hereafter, in due time, take notice, I thought it beſt to withdraw my ſaid ſaltpetre-concerns.

Accordingly I have totally deſiſted from the proſecution of that branch for many months paſt; my ſaid Gomaſtahs having only charge of the recovery of the outſtanding debts ariſen on laſt year's tranſactions.

All the reſt of my concerns likewiſe conſiſt in outſtanding debts, ariſen on the ſales of the Company's **outcry, &c.* goods exported from *Calcutta* before I reſigned the ſervice: ſo that my Gomaſtahs there have not at preſent charge of any purchaſes or ſales whatever.

Moreover, I have the moſt authentic proofs, in my hands, that during the aboveſaid tranſactions, the King, the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah*, and the Rajah *Bulwantſing* were *perfectly ſatisfied* with my carrying on the ſaid trade, being alſo *ſatisfied for their duties*; which makes it needleſs for me to ſpeak to the right I had in common with others, either in the light of a country-Merchant, a Company's ſervant, or other ſubject, reſiding under the *Britiſh* government.

So that it is hard even to gueſs, what juſt reaſons can be alleged for the preſent impriſonment of people under the denomination only of my Gomaſtahs, by virtue of orders from hence; unleſs, as aforeſaid, it be in conſequence of the miſrepreſentations of thoſe gentlemen, who are ſtruggling for ſaltpetre, and who (though without foundation) apprehend that I may continue the trade this ſeaſon, and thereby hurt their concerns.

Yet even in that caſe, as many others with me are ſo immediately concerned, and as it is the indiſpenſable obligation of your ſtation, to watch for the ſecurity of the property of all ſubjects under the protection of the *Britiſh* flag in this country, I can hardly imagine, that orders would have been iſſued from hence, upon the private information of any perſons, without firſt giving notice, taking meaſures to ſecure the property of the concerned, and fixing a certain time for transferring their buſineſs to others.

Since it is always better to prevent than redreſs evils, I have choſen firſt to apply to you alone, rather than to addreſs the whole Board, on ſubjects which, if *ſcrutinized, might involve and hurt the buſineſs of many other perſons*, eſpecially as (you having the intire direction of the country-correſpondence) matters of this nature are beſt and moſt eaſily to be redreſſed by you.

I therefore requeſt the letters before-mentioned to *Sujah al Dowlah* and *Bulwantſing* to releaſe my Gomaſtahs (and property, if detained) who may be directed, if you think it neceſſary, *to come down after four months, in which time, I am ſure, they will be able to collect in all outſtanding balances.* At the ſame time it would be equally as agreeable to me, that they ſhould come down immediately, if you can think of any method of obtaining for me either the immediate payment or ſecurity for the amount of my balances; *which are all good, and afford not the leaſt apprehenſion of their not being duly recovered.*

At the ſame time it appears practicable to put a ſtop to the preſent wranglings about ſaltpetre, in a manner that may be very beneficial to the Company, and at the ſame time perfectly ſatisfy the country-government and their *ryots*; upon a plan which I would humbly recommend for the Company's intereſt, as follows:

* Goods ſold at auction.

To

To contract with Merchants for all the ſaltpetre that can be made in thoſe diſtricts on the Company's account; the ſaid contractors ſatisfying the Princes of the country for their duties, and alſo reſerving for them ſuch a quantity as they might require, for the uſe of their own houſeholds and the conſumption of their own countries.

I will engage to find very reſponſible Merchants who will undertake to execute ſuch a plan, and engage to deliver on the Company's account, at *Patna*, for the firſt year 25,000 maunds of refined petre, which ſhall be near three times finer than that they have generally received from *Patna*, at a price to be hereafter ſtipulated; *upon which the Company might be ſure of gaining at leaſt fifteen thouſand pounds ſterling* per annum *clear, if they were even to ſell it again in* Bengal.

Other advantages, which would likewiſe accrue from ſuch a plan, are obvious. The foreign Companies might be ſupplied with their allowances from this petre, and our Company be thereby freed from thoſe large drawbacks on that branch of their trade. It would alſo prevent the *French* or *Dutch* from manufacturing it themſelves in thoſe parts, which they will certainly attempt, whenever the *Engliſh* Gomaſtahs are totally recalled. At the ſame time it muſt be remembered, that though the Gomaſtahs of private gentlemen be all recalled, yet, while our armies continue in thoſe parts, there is a great riſque, that, however ſtrict the orders of the board be, *ſome or other gentlemen of influence with the army, will find means to evade them, and to* *engroſs *the whole of this article, in conſequence of their influence over, and the ignorance and fears of the Country Princes:* ſo that it does not appear poſſible, ſo advantageouſly to obviate the evils apprehended by any other than this plan, which I have ſubmitted to your conſideration.

I am, SIR,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

Calcutta,
30th March 1768. (Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

NUM. XXXIII.

COPY of a Letter from Harry Verelſt, *Eſq; to* William Bolts. *Dated* Calcutta, *the* 31*ſt* March 1768: *In which the Preſident* ASSURES HIM, HE KNOWS OF NO ORDERS FOR IMPEDING THE BUSINESS OF HIS GOMASTAHS *in the Dominions of* Sujah al Dowlah *and* Bulwantſing.

To Mr. *William Bolts.*

SIR,

I HAVE received your letter of the 30th inſtant, and am to acquaint you, that I KNOW OF NO ORDERS FOR IMPEDING THE BUSINESS OF YOUR GOMASTAHS, IN PARTICULAR, IN THE DOMINIONS OF SUJAH AL DOWLAH:

* In this place an important query occurs, whether the *Britiſh* Government and Dominions were not alſo highly intereſted in the meaſures here propoſed; and which were rejected for ſerving the partial purpoſes of thoſe, whoſe duty it was moſt effectually to ſerve the Company and Kingdom?

AND

AND BULWANTSING. Repeated complaints have been received from thoſe two Princes of the oppreſſive conduct of Gomaſtahs taking the * *Engliſh* name, and carrying on trade in their countries. The Honourable Company have been pleaſed to expreſs their orders for the poſitive † prohibition to their ſervants of all trade whatever in thoſe provinces, and the preſidency of *Fort William* have reſolved to put a ſtop to it in future by a ‡ recal of all ſuch Gomaſtahs. How far, or by what right, your Gomaſtahs can be allowed to continue there, after the time already allotted you for the adjuſtment of your concerns, muſt be determined by *the Government* HERE.

I am, SIR,

March 31, 1768. Your moſt obedient ſervant,

(Signed) H. VERELST.

NUM. XXXIV.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq*; *Dated the* 2d April 1768; *as exhibited before a Committee of the Honourable the Houſe of* § *Commons.*

To *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident and Governor of *Fort William.*

SIR,

I RECEIVED, yeſterday, your favour of the 31ſt, in anſwer to mine of the 30th paſt; acquainting me of your ignorance of any orders having been given reſpecting my gomaſtahs in particular.

You muſt, therefore, I fear, have been groſly abuſed by thoſe who penned the *Perſian* letters from hence; for, by authentic copies of them, which I have this moment received from *Owd*, my gomaſtahs are particularly mentioned by name.

I cannot conceive, upon what principle the government here can undertake to determine what time ſhall be allowed me for the adjuſtment of my concerns in thoſe ¶ parts. However, as I have already ſaid as much, I ſhall, without diſcuſſing that point, willingly ſubmit, as others do, to every general order; and as it is your opinion, that the time to be allotted muſt be determined by the government here, I requeſt you will inform me of their determination, after acquainting them with the circumſtances I have laid before you, that I may know what to do.

* It ſhould be thought by this ſentence, that the Preſident had received no complaints againſt the writer's agents in particular; nor indeed were the practices of any complained of, but thoſe who acted for men higheſt in office; who were wickedly ſeeking to monopolize the trade, without paying duties, to the great detriment of thoſe Princes, and with great injury to the Natives.

† There exiſted no ſuch prohibition: and it would have been equally ridiculous and injurious to have made it.

‡ This was a mere pretence.

§ See Journals, Vol. XXXIII. page 923.

¶ Being countries governed by their own Princes.

In the mean time, I apply to you in the character of an injured, complaining ſubject, and requeſt letters to the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah*, and to the *Rajah Bulwantſing*, incloſing to them an * *Arzdaſht* of my complaints, of which the following is the purport:

"That Mr. *William Bolts* has had certain mercantile tranſactions in your dominions, as he repreſents, with your permiſſion, by virtue of perwânahs given by you, and in conſequence of duties paid, which buſineſs he avers has been tranſacted by his gomaſtahs in the moſt peaceful manner, and according to the cuſtom of thoſe countries; on which tranſactions large outſtanding balances have ariſen, to the amount of *one hundred and fifty thouſand rupees*. That, notwithſtanding this, the gomaſtahs of him, the ſaid *William Bolts*, have been lately ſeized and impriſoned, in a ſudden manner, without any cauſe or complaint being alledged, that he, *William Bolts*, can diſcover. While, at the ſame time, the agents and gomaſtahs of Governor *Vereiſt*, Colonel *Smith*, Mr. *Ruſſell*, Mr. *Alexander*, Mr. *Rumbold*, and many other *Britiſh* ſubjects, are unmoleſtedly permitted to tranſact their conſtituents affairs. That Mr. *William Bolts*, living under *Britiſh* protection, is intitled to every privilege others are intitled to.——That therefore it is required, that thoſe his gomaſtahs be releaſed, and allowed the ſame protection, and for the ſame ſpace of time as may be allowed to the gomaſtahs of the beforeſaid gentlemen:—and that ſatisfaction be made to him and them, in caſe it be proved, that they have been unjuſtly impriſoned; not only in violation of the treaties ſubſiſting between you and the *Engliſh*, but alſo againſt the laws of *Hindoſtan*, and of nations in general."

At the ſame time, Sir, ſhould it be inſiſted, that they have merited this treatment, I requeſt they may be ſummoned (after a moderate time to be allowed me) before the board of *Calcutta*, to have the facts inquired into.—But ſhould they be inquired into upon the ſpot, I requeſt you will order the inquiry to be poſtponed, till either I myſelf can arrive there, and be preſent, or appoint others.

I obſerve, Sir, what you inform me, that the Honourable Company have been pleaſed to prohibit all trade whatever in thoſe provinces, and that the Preſidency of *Calcutta* have reſolved to put a ſtop to it in future, by a recal of all ſuch gomaſtahs.——It is the firſt time I ever heard of it; nor had I the leaſt conception of it, knowing that, even lately, you was pleaſed to give a letter to the *Rajah Bulwantſing*, in favour of † Mr. *Alexander*'s buſineſs there. However, ſuch a prohibition of trade would not affect me; for, as I have before acquainted you, I have nothing depending there but the collection of outſtanding debts.

I am, SIR,
Your moſt obedient ſervant,
(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

Calcutta,
the 2d April 1768.

* A remonſtrating petition.

† See Mr. *Hare*'s letter, E. Number X. page 354.

NUM. XXXV.

COPY of a Letter from the Nabob Sujah al Dowlah *to* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq; Received the* 3*d* April 1768; *acquainting him, that he had complied with his Directions concerning the* Armenians Rafael *and* Eſtephan.

I RECEIVED your friendly letter by the hands of Captain *Harper*, and was rejoiced thereby. It is plain, that my friendſhip with the *Engliſh Sirdars*, and particularly with your Excellency, is firm; neither does it need the common phraſes of the world to ſet it off. You alſo have ſhewn yourſelf ſo profuſe of favours towards me, that I cannot find any expreſſions equal to my ſenſe thereof. I can only wiſh, that the Almighty may give our connexion daily ſtrength, and our friendſhip hourly warmth. Conſidering what you write on the ſubject of the *Armenians*, as proceeding from your perfect cordiality, I am delighted therewith; what can be more ſuitable to our intereſts than, that we ſhould mutually exert ourſelves in diſarming all ſuch as may be the abettors, or authors of evil? In the affair of the ſaltpetre, which was the firſt, every inquietude was removed, and every thorn extracted at once, by even a momentary advertence of your Excellency's regard. *And now that you have written concerning* Rafael *and* Eſtephan, that matter is done. As they have ſome outſtanding debts, incurred in the courſe of their buſineſs here, they petitioned earneſtly for two or three days reſpite, to ſettle their accounts; after that, they will no more preſume to reſide here. *Rajah Bulwantſing* has acquainted me with your Excellency's orders about the *Armenians* in thoſe diſtricts, and I have inſtructed him to pay implicit obedience *to what you ſhall ſignify on the occaſion, as whatever is agreeable to you, cannot fail of being ſatisfactory to me.* For the reſt, conſider me as one ſolicitous after your welfare, and favour me with frequent accounts thereof.

Ax

NUM. XXXVI.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq; Dated* Calcutta, *the 7th* April 1768; *as exhibited before a Committee of the Honourable* * *Houſe of Commons.*

To *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident and Governor of *Fort William.*

SIR,

AS ſome days have elapſed, and I have not been favoured with an anſwer to my laſt letter, which it is of the greateſt conſequence for me to have as ſoon as poſſible, to enable me to take the neceſſary meaſures

* See Journals, Vol. XXXIII. page 924.

for the ſecurity of my property, I requeſt you will be pleaſed to acquaint me with what you have determined thereupon.

I am, SIR,
Your moſt obedient ſervant,
(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

Calcutta,
the 7th April 1768.

NUM. XXXVII.

COPY of a Letter from Harry Verelſt, *Eſq*; *to* William Bolts. *Dated* Fort William, *or* Calcutta, *the 9th* April 1768; *as exhibited before a Committee of the Honourable * Houſe of Commons.*

To Mr. *William Bolts.*

SIR,

I HAVE your letters of the 2d and 7th inſtant; and am again to repeat to you, that the reſolutions taken, and the orders given for recalling the *Engliſh* gomaſtahs in the dominions of *Sujah al Dowlah* and *Bulwantſing*, were general, not particular; but that AS THE NAMES OF SUCH PERSONS CAME TO MY KNOWLEDGE, IT BECAME NECESSARY TO POINT THEM OUT.

I am alſo to acquaint you, that letters have been written, deſiring that the gomaſtahs may be allowed to collect in their conſtituents † outſtanding balances; what time may be deemed neceſſary for that purpoſe, will be determined by the Committee; it would have been done before now, had not my indiſpoſition prevented my having a meeting with the gentlemen.

I am, SIR,
Your moſt obedient ſervant,
(Signed) H. VERELST.

Fort William,
April 9th 1768.

NUM. XXXVIII.

TRANSLATION of a Perſian *Writing, under the Hand and Seal of* William Bolts. *Tranſmitted in* April 1768, *to Mr.* Johannes Padre Rafael.

"BE it known to whom it may concern,——That, whereas I have appointed *Cogee Johannes Padre Rafael* to collect my debts and balances outſtanding, and to get together all my concerns in trade, which are now

* See Journals, Vol. XXXIII. page 924.

† Nevertheleſs, Mr. *Verelſt* was pleaſed to continue the writer's *Armenian* agents ſeveral months under confinement.

diſperſed abroad in divers places, the aforeſaid perſon will recover the balances from my debtors reſpectively, according to juſtice and equity; and will alſo get together, and bring away, all ſuch concerns in trade, as are there outſtanding on my account. Whoever, therefore, ſhall, without juſt cauſe, impede and obſtruct this buſineſs, or any way moleſt, or impriſon the aforeſaid perſon, he will become reſponſible for my balances and outſtanding concerns; and I will take due account of my affairs from him. I have written this by way of declaration.

(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS." L. S.

NUM. XXXIX.

EXTRACT of a Letter from Harry Verelſt, *Eſq; to the Court of* Eaſt India *Directors. Dated the* 10*th* April 1768; *as inſerted by Mr.* Verelſt, *in his Appendix, Page* 77.

THE Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah* having complained in his letters to the Preſident, of the miſconduct of * gomaſtahs trading in his dominions, under the ſanction of the *Engliſh* name, we did not heſitate to give him an early proof of our regard to his repreſentations; and accordingly came to a reſolution of *prohibiting* † *all your ſervants*, as well as other *Europeans*, reſiding under your direction, from carrying any trade, directly, or indirectly, beyond the provinces, after a certain time limited for the adjuſtment of their outſtanding concerns; under pain of confiſcation of his goods, and diſmiſſion from your ſervice, if a covenanted ſervant; and if a free merchant, or other *European*, the immediate loſs of your protection. Such orders have been iſſued, and ſuch ‡ precautions taken, in the poſting of officers at the different ſtations on the rivers, as have *enforced this regulation in the moſt effectual manner*.

* To ſhew the abſurdity of this paragraph to the Directors, and the contrariety of Governor *Verelſt*'s conduct, the reader will pleaſe to remark, that on the 19th and 27th *February* 1768 (ſee E. numbers XVI. and XX.) he tells the RAJAH *Bulwantſing*, and the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah*, that he knew nothing of the irregularities committed by the gomaſtahs until he was informed by Colonel *Smith*.

† He will alſo remark, that the prohibition here referred to *on the* 10*th* April 1768, was only made on *the* 18*th* May 1768 (ſee E. number LXX.) and was not publiſhed until the 9th of *June*, although it was to have effect from the 27th *April* 1768, that is, twenty-one days before it was made by the board.

‡. The ſalutary effects of Governor *Verelſt's precautions*, will be ſeen in Mr. *Rumbold*'s letters of the 14th *April* and 23d *September* 1768; which follow in this collection, E. under the numbers XLV. and LXXXVIII, and alſo by Mr. *Verelſt*'s own letter to the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah*, E. number LIX.

NUM. XL.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq*; *Dated* Calcutta, *the* 11*th* April 1768; *as exhibited before a Committee of the Honourable* * *Houſe of Commons.*

To *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident and Governor of *Fort William.*

SIR,

THE laſt letter which you was pleaſed to ſend me yeſterday, neither affords the anſwer which I flattered myſelf I ſhould receive to mine, nor redreſs of the grievances I complained of. The people I wrote to you about have been ſent down, under confinement, to *Shetabroy*, the Company's Collector at *Patna*, who has kept them under confinement.

In conſequence of your laſt letter, I have ordered them back to their ſtations; but, in the mean time, as that is not ſufficient, I muſt requeſt immediately † three letters, one to *Shetabroy*, to releaſe them, one to RAJAH *Bulwantſing*, and one to the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah*; at leaſt to acquaint them of my peoples being ordered back, to continue upon the ſame terms as other *Engliſh* agents.

I am, SIR,
Your moſt obedient ſervant,

Calcutta,
11*th April* 1768.

(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

NUM XLI.

COPIES of ſundry Letters, which paſſed to and from William Bolts, *on the* 13*th* APRIL 1768; *as exhibited before a Committee of the Honourable* ‡ *Houſe of Commons.*

To Mr. *John Knott.*

SIR,

AS the multiplicity of affairs upon Mr. *Verelſt*'s hands may make him forget the letter I wrote him the 11th inſtant, on the ſubject of my impriſoned agents, and to avoid continually troubling him on that ſubject, I requeſt you will, on the firſt vacant moment, put him in mind of it, that I may receive the *Perſian* letters in time to prevent many unexpected and diſagreeable conſequences. If you find I am not to expect thoſe *Perſian* let-

* See Journals, Vol. XXXIII. page 924.

† Mr. *Verelſt*'s deſpotiſm was not yet fated with reſpect to the *Armenians*. He therefore evaded anſwering this part of the letter.

‡ See Journals, Vol. XXXIII. pages 924 and 925.

ters,

ters, a note ſignifying Mr. *Verelſt*'s refuſal will be ſufficient; and an anſwer procured (if poſſible to day) either in the affirmative, or negative, will be eſteemed a favour by,

SIR,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

Calcutta, *the 13th April* 1768. (Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

NUM. XLII.

To Mr. *William Bolts*.

SIR,

THIS moment your letter of to day's date is preſented to me, the purport of which rendering it neceſſary to be communicated to Mr. *Verelſt*, he deſires me to let you know, that your ſeveral late letters to him (on the ſubject of your preſent addreſs to me) as well as his anſwer thereto, *having been laid before the Select Committee*, you will receive their ſentiments thereon from the Secretary to that department.

I am, SIR,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

Wedneſday noon, *13th April* 1768. (Signed) JOHN KNOTT.

NUM. XLIII.

To *Charles Ffloyer*, Eſq; Secretary to the Select Committee at *Fort William*.

SIR,

HAVING lately wrote to Mr. *Verelſt* ſeveral letters, regarding his having ordered into confinement ſundry perſons and merchants who are my agents and gomaſtahs, who, in conſequence of thoſe orders, have been ſeized in *Sujah al Dowlah*'s dominions, in a ſudden manner, by force, plundered, impriſoned, and ſent down under confinement to *Shetabroy*, the Company's Collector at *Patna*, who has there received them as priſoners, and continued them under confinement; whereby I am likely to be a loſer of one hundred and fifty thouſand rupees, excluſive of the loſs accruing to thoſe injured perſons in particular: In anſwer to thoſe my applications, I am now referred to the Secretary of the Select Committee for their determination thereupon. I therefore apply to you, and requeſt you will pleaſe to ſend me, without loſs of time, a copy of ſuch proceedings as concern me, particularly mentioning the members preſent at this tranſaction. As one hour's delay may be of the moſt ruinous conſequence to my affairs, I hope you will excuſe my earneſtneſs.

I am, SIR,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

Calcutta, *13th April* 1768. (Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

NUM.

NUM. XLIV.

To Mr. *William Bolts.*

SIR,

THE opinion of the Select Committee on the ſubject of your letters to the Governor ſhall be made known to you as expeditiouſly as may be in my power to tranſmit it to you.

I am, SIR,
Your moſt obedient ſervant,

Calcutta,
13*th April* 1768. (Signed) CHARLES FFLOYER.

NUM. XLV.

COPY of a Letter from Thomas Rumbold, *Eſq*; *Chief of* Patna, *to the Preſident and Select Committee. Dated the* 14*th* April 1768. *Wherein he ſets forth, the Ruin attendant upon the Merchants whoſe Trade was ſtopped upon the Rivers* * Dewah *and* Caramnaſſa, *in conſequence of Governor* Verelſt's *Regulations.*

To the Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident and Governor, *&c.* Gentlemen of the Select Committee at *Fort William.*

GENTLEMEN,

IN my letter of the 10th, I mentioned the ſevere loſs felt by the merchants of theſe parts, *from the ſtoppage of all boats without diſtinction*, at the *Caramnaſſa* and *Dewah* rivers.

I have ſince been ſurrounded with complaints, *not of this city only, but from all quarters of the country.* Some who repreſent their ruin as inevitable, if their merchandize does not proceed to the markets it was provided for; others, the hardſhip of not being permitted ſingly, and without any goods, to viſit, or return to their families and friends.

I have endeavoured to appeaſe their clamours, for the preſent, by promiſing I would make known their ſituation to you. Though Chief of this factory, and acting in ſuch a ſtation in the *Bahar*-province, I am uninformed of the regulations, and not able to give them further redreſs, till favoured with your anſwer. Since the prohibition of duſtucks in *Sujah al Dowlah*'s dominions, I have carefully avoided granting any; and the boats now requiring a paſſage *are ſuch as are willing, nay expect to pay the eſtabliſhed duties, and comply with the regulations of the country they paſs through.*

* Two rivers which ſeparate the territories of the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah* and the *Rajah Bulwantſing* from the province of *Bahar*.

The

The number of boats thus collected is very considerable, and every day increasing, and large property is exposed to the continual danger of storms and bad weather; evils too much to be dreaded at this season of the year. *The intercourse and communication with the neighbouring countries, so mutually beneficial, is totally cut off.* As this is an affair in which the welfare of the province is much interested, I thought it a duty incumbent on me, to make a full representation of it to you; and I request you will favour me with an answer as soon as possible.

I am, GENTLEMEN,
Your most obedient
humble servant,

Patna,
the 14th April 1768. (Signed) THOMAS RUMBOLD.

NUM. XLVI.

COPY of a Letter from Harry Verelst, *Esq; to the* Rajah Bulwantsing. *Dated the 14th* April 1768.

THE Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah had so frequently and strongly complained of* * European *gomastahs*, residing in his territories, and *particularly within your jurisdiction*, that I could not refuse *my consent and encouragement* in getting them withdrawn. My last letter was therefore meant to cut off, if possible, all future causes of complaint against our gomastahs, and to quiet the uneasiness of our ally, the Nabob, by my zeal for the ease and happiness of his country.

You had made particular † objections to the conduct of Monsr. *Canonge* before; but it astonishes me to hear the ‡ rigour with which you have treated him, in hurrying him away, without a moment's respite to settle his concerns. Monsr. *Chevalier*, the *French* Governor, has himself large concerns in Monsr. *Canonge*'s hands, which are now at stake; and he has given me such an account of your seizing, imprisoning, and mal-treating him, that I cannot conceive any provocation could justify, or any consequences arise from it, but enormous losses of private property, without benefit to the country. I must therefore desire of you, to pursue these matters with another temper, and more moderation; and as Monsr. *Chevalier* has engaged himself responsible for Monsr. *Canonge* removing all future dealings in that country, and Monsr. *Canonge* has given protestations himself to the same purpose, you will grant him a month's indulgence for the adjustment of his former concerns, seeing

* We must suppose, that in the place here referred to, Mr. *Verelst* meant to say, "Gomastahs of *Europeans*;" for if he meant what he expresses, there was, at this time, only one *English* "*European* gomastah" in all the country; and that was his own agent for diamonds, Mr. *John Chamier*.

† Monsr. *Canonge* not only had the permission of this *Rajah*, but also possessed a perwânah from the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah*, and the first objections against that gentleman were made by Mr. *Verelst* himself, as is proved by his own letter. See E. Number XVI. page 361.

‡ Mr. *Verelst* is here astonished at the natural consequences of his own orders.

he

he is to contract no new engagements during that time. I am further informed that you are collecting duties upon all goods which have been formerly tranſported into your diſtricts. I really can ſee no reaſon for this, unleſs you mean to make uſe of public pretences for your private emolument; and as I wiſh rather to ſerve our ally, *Sujah al Dowlah*, really and eſſentially, than gratify private intereſt, or private paſſions, I deſire you will deſiſt from this practice in future, and facilitate as much as lies in your power the concluſion of concerns now exiſting, and no more exact duties on goods either bought or ſold in your diſtricts, before this time.

NUM. XLVII.

ABSTRACT of a Letter from Harry Verelſt, *Eſq; to the* Rajah Bulwantſing. *Dated the* 14*th* April 1768.

"ACQUAINTING him, That copies have been procured, by ſome gentlemen, of Mr. *Verelſt*'s correſpondence with him; reproving him for want of caution, and directing him to be more circumſpect in future."

NUM. XLVIII.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to* Charles Ffloyer, *Eſq; Secretary to the Select Committee, with Mr. Secretary* Ffloyer's *Anſwer. Dated the* 14*th* April 1768.

To *Charles Ffloyer*, Eſq; Secretary to the Select Committee.

SIR,

IF you have had time to * tranſcribe the proceedings of the Committee which I wrote for yeſterday, I requeſt you will pleaſe to tranſmit them *per* bearer to,

SIR,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

Calcutta, the 14*th April* 1768.

(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

* The writer had been informed, on the 13th *April*, by Mr. *Verelſt*'s order (ſee E. Number XLII.) that his letters had been laid before the Select Committee. This appeared afterwards to be contrary to truth, as the Committee was not held until the 15th *April*. (See E. Number L.)

NUM. XLIX.

To Mr. *William Bolts.*

SIR,

THE Committee will, I ſuppoſe, come to ſome reſolution on the ſubject of your letters to the Governor, at a meeting to be held to-morrow morning; in which caſe, you ſhall have immediate information thereof from,

SIR,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

Fort William,
the 14th April 1768.

(Signed) CHARLES FFLOYER,
Sec. Select Committee.

NUM. L.

COPY of the Proceedings of the Select Committee held at Calcutta, *the 15th* April 1768; *wherein they aſſert, by Letter to* William Bolts, *that they know of no Orders for the Confinement of any of his Gomaſtahs.*

Fort William, the 15th April 1768.

At a Select Committee, preſent,

The Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident,
John Cartier,
Richard Becher, and
Charles Ffloyer, Eſquires.

THE Preſident lays before the Committee the late correſpondence between him and Mr. *William Bolts*, on the ſubject of the latter's concerns in the countries of *Sujah al Dowlah* and *Bulwantſing*; and requeſts that the two following paragraphs of Mr. *Bolts*'s letter to him, under date of 2d inſtant, *may be recorded* upon theſe proceedings, as in one of them he acknowledges, what the Preſident has long ſince had information of, *his carrying on a correſpondence with the * Princes and others of the country*; a circumſtance which he, the Preſident, deems highly detrimental to the intereſt of our honourable employers, and an abſolute defiance of their orders.

* No ſuch concluſion is deducible from the extracts here exhibited.

EXTRACT

EXTRACT of a Letter from Mr. *William Bolts* to the Preſident, dated the 2d *April* 1768.

" I RECEIVED yeſterday your favour of the 31ſt, in anſwer to mine of the 30th paſt, acquainting me of your ignorance of any orders having been given reſpecting my gomaſtahs in particular.

You muſt therefore, I fear, have been groſly abuſed by thoſe who penned the *Perſian* letters from hence; for by *authentic copies* of them, which I have this moment received from *Owd*, my gomaſtahs are particularly mentioned by name."

The Preſident alſo acquaints the board, that, in his reply to Mr. *Bolts*'s laſt letter to him, he referred him to the reſolutions of the Select Committee, before whom *he propoſed to lay* his correſpondence for their conſideration. In conſequence whereof, the Secretary received two letters from Mr. *Bolts*, dated the 13th and 14th inſtant, which are now produced and read. The Secretary begs leave to obſerve, that the laſt letter he received was in reply to one he wrote to Mr. *Bolts*, aſſuring him, that as ſoon as the Committee came to any reſolution concerning him, he ſhould be made acquainted therewith.

Ordered, That the two letters from Mr. *Bolts* be entered after the proceedings, and that the following letter be wrote to him from our Secretary:

" To Mr. *William Bolts*.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Select Committee to inform you, that THEY, NOR THE PRESIDENT, KNOW OF NO ORDERS FOR THE CONFINEMENT OF ANY OF YOUR GOMASTAHS; That the repreſentations from *Sujah al Dowlah* and *Bulwantſing* have made it neceſſary for the Committee to determine on the recal of all gomaſtahs taking upon them the *Engliſh* name in their countries; That they think you have no right to call upon them, on this occaſion, having long ſince had the uſual time allowed you for the adjuſtment of all your concerns; having already been ordered to leave the country, and adviſed, *that no further protection* would be given you.

The Committee are therefore determined not to * interfere, or in any ſhape charge themſelves with any of your concerns.

I have laid before them your letters to me, under date the 13th and 14th inſtant.

I am, SIR,
Your moſt obedient ſervant,

Fort William
the 15th April 1768.

(Signed) CHARLES FFLOYER,
Sec. Select Committee."

* After they had cauſed the *Armenian* merchants to be impriſoned, and brought down into the Company's provinces, they reſolved not to interfere in any ſhape; ſo that the priſoners had now no proſpect but of continuing confined for life, under charge of the Committee's black-agents, whom they called Nabobs, and Deputy Nabobs.

NUM. LI.

COPY of a Letter from the Rajah Shetabroy, *nominal acting Nabob at* Patna, *to* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq*; *Received the 16th* April 1768.

YOUR ſervant, with all faithfulneſs, is at no time wanting in the diſcharge of your high commands; but may it pleaſe your Excellency, when the Nabob *Mahommed Reza Khawn* was in *Calcutta*, and the affairs of *Carrukpore* were taken notice of in your conferences, your ſervant imagined you would have iſſued your gracious orders on the ſubject to him. It is time the affair is ſettled; but your ſervant has not been honoured with your illuſtrious letter concerning it. For ſome days there *have been two officers ſtationed*, one at *Moneah*, on the *Dewah*, and the other at *Chowſah*, for the examination of *Engliſh* boats, and the duſtucks of the Company; and the Colonel informed me, that your Excellency's orders had been ſignified to your ſervant for ſtationing deputies on the part of the government in the ſame places; but your ſervant made anſwer, that your orders on that head had not reached him.——Thirdly, your ſervant has received advice from *Rajah Bulwantſing*, *of your directions for his ſeizing on the perſons of* Cojees Melcomb *and* Gregore, Armenians, and Monſ. *Canonge*, a *Frenchman*, and carrying them down to your ſervant; neither have you honoured your ſervant with any intimation of this. As thoſe three high commands, all relative to your ſervant, have been iſſued without his receiving any direct orders from your Excellency, ſo that he might be duly informed, and ready in the execution thereof; he therefore humbly deſires your Excellency would apprize him of your venerable commands, and not ſubject him to ſuch diſagreeable alternatives in future. It is highly neceſſary for your Excellency to incline your attention hereto.

NUM. LII.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq*; *Dated the 16th* April 1768.

To *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident and Governor of *Fort William*.

SIR,

IN my laſt letter to you of the 11th inſtant, I acquainted you, that *Shetabroy*, the Company's Collector at *Patna*, had there confined ſundry of my agents, whereby I am likely to be a loſer of one hundred and fifty thouſand rupees; and requeſted of you a letter, ordering him to releaſe them, *&c.*—

Not

Not receiving any anſwer, and to avoid troubling you continually on this ſubject, on the 13th inſtant, I wrote a letter to Mr. *John Knott*, your Secretary; who informed me, that, upon his communicating it to you, you referred me, for the anſwers to my applications, to the Secretary of the Select Committee. I accordingly made application to Mr. *Charles Ffloyer*, who yeſterday ſent me a letter, of which the incloſed is a copy; informing me, that the reſolution of the Select Committee was, that no protection ſhould be granted to me; and that they were determined not to interfere in obtaining for me the redreſs I required.——As I am not to be trifled with, I muſt inform you, that I am expecting commiſſions from the High Court of Chancery, which will not only put it out of any man's power to ſcreen himſelf behind the garb aſſumed under the names of "*Nabob and country-government*," but alſo force into light the moſt ſecret proceedings of the junto, called Select Committee, in all things, wherein the character, liberty, property, or life of a *Britiſh* ſubject is concerned.

And reflect, Sir, that as I am very averſe to diſputes and litigations, it is yet in your power, *by giving me only the letters I have required, to prevent things going to extremities; thereby preſerving yourſelf and others from many ruinous and ſhameful conſequences, and your employers from national diſhonour.*—I therefore requeſt, that, after due conſideration, you will pleaſe to acquaint me, in anſwer to this, whether or not you will give me the letters I have required; or whether the ſentiments contained in Mr. *Ffloyer*'s beforeſaid letter, are ſuch as you avow and eſteem a final anſwer to the complaints I have made to you?

I am, SIR,
Your moſt obedient ſervant,
(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

Calcutta,
the 16th April 1768.

NUM. LIII.

COPY of a Letter to Mr. Secretary Droz, *and another to the Preſident and Council of* Calcutta, *from* William Bolts. *Dated the* 18*th* April 1768.

To *Simeon Droz*, Eſq; Secretary of the Council at *Fort William.*

SIR,

ACCOMPANYING this, is a letter which I have this day wrote to the Preſident, *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; and the gentlemen of Council, Meſſrs. *John Cartier*, *Richard Becher*, *James Alexander*, *Claud Ruſſell*, *William Alderſey*, and *Charles Ffloyer*. I requeſt you will pleaſe to acknowledge the receipt of it, and lay it before the board at their firſt meeting.

I am, SIR,
Your moſt obedient ſervant,
(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

Calcutta,
the 18th April 1768.

NUM.

NUM. LIV.

To *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident,
John Cartier,
Richard Becher,
James Alexander,
Claud Ruſſell,
William Alderſey, and
Charles Ffloyer, Eſquires; Members of Council for the affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies*, at *Fort William*.

GENTLEMEN,

HAVING received informations that, without any cauſe whatever, and in a ſudden manner, ſundry of my agents and gomaſtahs employed in collecting my outſtanding balances, were impriſoned and detained by *Shetabroy*, the Company's Collector at *Patna*, by which I am likely to be a loſer of one hundred and fifty thouſand rupees, excluſive of the loſs accruing to thoſe injured perſons in particular; I applied to your Preſident, *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; requeſting amongſt other things, an order to *Shetabroy* for their releaſement.

In anſwer to my ſaid application, Mr. *Verelſt*, at laſt, referred me to the Secretary to the Select Committee; who, on the 15th inſtant, ſent me a letter, in which I am informed, that the reſolution of the Select Committee is, that no protection ſhall be granted me; and that they are determined not to interfere in obtaining for me the redreſs I require; of which letter the accompanying is a copy.

On the 16th inſtant, I wrote a letter on the ſubject to Governor *Verelſt*, of which alſo the incloſed is a copy; to which I have not received the favour of an anſwer.

As his Majeſty's royal charter takes no notice of a Select Committee, but ſolely of a Preſident and Council, I now addreſs myſelf to you, gentlemen, in that capacity, repeating my complaint, and petition for redreſs: and requeſting you will pleaſe to acquaint me, whether or not you avow the proceedings of Governor *Verelſt*, and the Select Committee, referred to; or whether (as I humbly hope) you will grant the redreſs required by,

GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

Calcutta, *the* 18*th April* 1768.

(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

NUM.

NUM. LV.

ABSTRACT of a Letter from the Rajah Shetabroy, *at* Patna, *to* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq*; *Received the 19th* April 1768.

"ACQUAINTING Mr. *Verelſt* of the arrival of *Cogee Melcomb*, *Cogee Gregore*, and Monſ. *Canonge*; and of their being forwarded to *Mahommed Reza Khawn.*"

NUM. LVI.

COPY of a Letter from Francis Hare, *Eſq*; *to* William Bolts. *Dated* Patna, *the 19th* April 1768; *as proved before a Committee of the Honourable* * *Houſe of Commons.*

To Mr. *William Bolts.*

SIR,

I RECEIVED your favour of the 10th inſtant, incloſing a letter for *Ramcantoboſe*, which I immediately ſent him; acquainting him with your inſtructions relating to *Melcomb* and *Gregore*; though I do not ſee what effect they can have, as they cannot be releaſed, but by the power that confined them. They both left this place ſome time ago, and muſt have arrived at the city, I think, long before this; ſo that their enlargement muſt be obtained by you. As for me, as I was ordered to deliver them up to *Shetabroy*, under pain of forfeiture of the ſervice (though not permitted to put that order in execution; for they were ſent here priſoners by *Bulwantſing*) I think, I cannot venture on a further application.

I am, SIR,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

Patna, the 19th April 1768. (Signed) FRANCIS HARE.

P. S. I anſwered your two favours of the 5th and 26th *ultimo*, the 4th inſtant.

* See Journals, Vol. XXXIII. page 926.

NUM. LVII.

TRANSLATION of a Note from the Rajah Bulwantſing, *incloſed for* William Bolts, *in a Letter to the ſaid* Rajah's *Ambaſſador*, Maharage Miſſer, *at* Calcutta. *Dated the 24th* April 1768; *as proved before a Committee of the Honourable* * *Houſe of Commons.*

On the cover, ſealed, "*Rajah Bulwantſing Bahadre.*" Directed "to the *Brahmin, Effegy* of *Brimha, Maharage Miſſer.*

"The following you are to acquaint Mr. *Bolts* with.

I HAVE received your letter. As to what you have wrote about Mr. *Bolts*'s gomaſtahs, you know that I have a regard for Mr. *Bolts*'s buſineſs, and a friendſhip for him from my heart, and always complied with whatever his gomaſtahs requeſted. When the Nabob, *Harry Verelſt*'s letter came, for ſending them, agreeably to that order, I was obliged to ſend them to *Rajah Shetabroy*; before the arrival of Mr. *Bolts*'s and your letters, I had told them, there is no impediment on my part."

NUM. LVIII.

COPY of a Letter from Harry Verelſt, *Eſq; to the* Rajah Bulwantſing. *Dated the 26th* April 1768.

I BEFORE wrote, that the gomaſtahs of the *Engliſh* gentlemen ſhould be allowed, as before, to diſpoſe, duty free, of what they had imported; or to carry away goods they might have already provided. I now acquaint you, that it is determined, that they *ſhall be allowed two months from the receipt of this*, for the ſettling of their affairs; and I deſire you will afford them every aſſiſtance herein, that the buſineſs may be ſpeedily brought to an iſſue. In this interval ſhould you have any cauſe of complaint againſt any gomaſtahs, you will repreſent † it to Mr. *Rumbold*, at *Patna*; and he will give you immediate redreſs.

* Journals, Vol. XXXIII. page 929.

† The *Rajah* is here given to underſtand, that he is not at liberty to govern his own territories, agreeably to the laws of *Hindoſtan*; and the ſame intimation was given to the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah*, as appears from the following number.

NUM.

NUM. LIX.

COPY of a Letter from Harry Verelſt, *Eſq; to the Nabob* Sujah al Dowlah. *Dated the* 26*th* April 1768.

I AM ſorry to inform your Excellency, that, *in conſequence of my letters* to you, concerning the *Engliſh* gomaſtahs, and your orders thereupon, I find your officers *have exerciſed a ſeverity beyond what either of us intended.* They have ſeized and ſent away many, without allowing them the ſhorteſt time to adjuſt their affairs; and others, from this kind of treatment, *find it impoſſible even to receive the debts lawfully due to them.* As theſe loſſes muſt fall heavy on many individuals, I think it but juſt to requeſt your Excellency, to indulge them with two months licence, to withdraw their effects and ſettle their affairs; and, at the ſame time, give ſuch orders to the officers of your dominions, that they may lend them all aſſiſtance for the more ſpeedy diſpatch of this matter. In the mean time, ſhould any of them miſbehave, or interfere in any thing regarding your country, I requeſt you would order Mr. *Rumbold* to be made acquainted with it, as he is nearer than myſelf; and as he is a gentleman on whoſe juſtice I have the moſt perfect reliance, he will puniſh them in the moſt exemplary manner; for which purpoſe he has full inſtructions from me.

NUM. LX.

EXTRACT from the Proccedings of a Select Committee held at Calcutta, *the* 27*th* April 1768; *with the Copy of their Letter to* Thomas Rumbold, *Eſq; Chief at* Patna.

At a Select Committee, preſent,

The Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident,
John Cartier,
Richard Becher, and
Charles Ffloyer, Eſquires.

THE Preſident informs the Committee, that orders have been iſſued to the officers at the *Chokeys*, to ſuffer all merchandize *belonging to the natives of this country* to paſs on their paying the cuſtomary duties.

The board being ſenſible of the great diſadvantages reſulting from an immediate recal of all gomaſtahs of individuals, trading in the countries of the

Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah*, and *Rajah Bulwantſing*, under the ſanction of the *Engliſh* names, it is reſolved, to allow them to reſide there for the ſpace of two months, for the adjuſtment of the affairs of their conſtituents, and the collection of their outſtanding balances; that they ſhall on no account whatſoever be allowed to engage in any new concerns, and that they ſhall quit thoſe countries immediately after the expiration of the time limited for their reſidence.

And in order to facilitate the adjuſtment of their affairs, as well as to prevent the frauds and other abuſes to which ſuch a reſtriction might otherwiſe expoſe them, it is further reſolved and agreed, That the Preſident do inform *Sujah al Dowlah* and *Bulwantſing* of theſe injunctions laid on all gomaſtahs in their countries, and to requeſt they will grant them every reaſonable aſſiſtance they may require for the ſpeedy regulation of their concerns.

Agreed, That the foregoing reſolution be laid before the * Preſident and Council; and that we do recommend to them, to iſſue their orders for effectually preventing any trade being carried on beyond the provinces, by gomaſtahs aſſuming the *Engliſh* name.

Ordered, That all the Chiefs of ſubordinates be apprized of the Committee's reſolutions concerning the recal of private gomaſtahs from the countries of *Sujah al Dowlah* and *Bulwantſing*.

" To *Thomas Rumbold*, Eſq; Chief at *Patna*.

SIR,

We have been favoured with your letters under dates of the 10th, 14th, and 18th inſtant.

On reference to a return tranſmitted to our Preſident, from the officer ſtationed at the *Dewah*, we perceive, that only three boats belonging to the native inhabitants of the country had been ſtopped there before the 31ſt *ultimo*; and by a letter received from him, dated the 10th inſtant, we are only informed of one boat more during the intermediate ſpace of time.—We muſt therefore conclude, that many of the complaints which have been made to you, on that occaſion, were † without foundation.

As it was not our intention to deprive, or impede the native from carrying on his trade, as heretofore, on paying the cuſtomary duties to the rulers of thoſe countries, wherein goods may be imported; orders have been iſſued to the officers at the *Chokeys* to ſuffer their merchandize to paſs.

The Select Committee, being ſenſible of the great diſadvantages reſulting from an immediate recal of all gomaſtahs of individuals, at preſent trading in the countries of the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah* and *Bulwantſing*, under the ſanction of the *Engliſh* name; have reſolved to allow them to reſide there for

* This reſolution was not laid before the Preſident and Council until the 18th *May* 1768; as may be ſeen in letter E. number LXX.

† Here the Committee appear averſe to acknowledge the evils that were conſequent of their own regulations; as repreſented by Mr. *Rumbold*.

the

the ſpace of two months, from the date hereof, for the adjuſtment of the affairs of their conſtituents, and the collection of their outſtanding balances.

That they are, on no account whatſoever, to engage in any new concern, and are to quit thoſe countries immediately after the expiration of the term limited for their reſidence.

In order to facilitate the adjuſtment of their affairs, as well as to prevent the frauds and other abuſes to which ſuch a reſtriction might otherwiſe expoſe them, it has been further reſolved, to inform *Sujah al Dowlah* and *Bulwantſing* of theſe injunctions laid upon all gomaſtahs in their countries; and to *requeſt*, they will grant them every reaſonable aſſiſtance they may require for the regulation of their concerns.

You'll pleaſe to acquaint all the gomaſtahs reſiding in thoſe countries, under your duſtuck, or perwânah, with theſe the Committee's reſolutions; and we deſire you will attend to their paying the ſtricteſt obedience to them.

We are, SIR,
Your moſt obedient humble ſervants,

(Signed) H. VERELST,
JOHN CARTIER,
RICHARD BECHER,
CHARLES FFLOYER.*

Fort William,
the 27th April 1768.

NUM. LXI.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to the Preſident and Council of* Calcutta. *Dated the* 2*d* May 1768; *as exhibited before a Committee of the Honourable* * *Houſe of Commons.*

To *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident,
John Cartier,
Richard Becher,
James Alexander,
Claud Ruſſell,
William Alderſey, and
Charles Ffloyer, Eſquires; Members of the Council for the affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of *England*, trading to the *Eaſt Indies*, at *Fort William*.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE been now thirteen days waiting for an anſwer to my application to your board of the 18th *April*, regarding my impriſoned agents. They have now been forced down to *Murſhedabad*, where they are alſo kept under

* See Journals, Vol. XXXIII. page 927.

ſtrict confinement; whereby, excluſive of the loſſes accruing to me, not only their property and characters, but their lives alſo are endangered. In anſwer to the applications which have been made to the Nabob, he ſays, he is waiting for your orders from *Calcutta* reſpecting them.

As they are chriſtians, men of ſubſtance and good character, houſeholders of *Calcutta*, and every way intitled to the protection of the *Britiſh* laws, it is incumbent on me, in whoſe ſervice, and on whoſe account they innocently ſuffer theſe evils, to repeat my repreſentation to you on their behalf; at leaſt ſo far, that though they loſe their property, as well as me, they may yet eſcape with their lives; and thereby have an opportunity, by their future induſtry, of preſerving their families from utter ruin.

Thus far I petition on behalf of thoſe innocent and oppreſſed merchants.

With reſpect to the redreſs which I myſelf have required, by your long ſilence on ſo important and delicate a point, it is beyond a doubt that you, gentlemen, mean to avow the proceedings of your Preſident and Select Committee, as referred to in my addreſs of the 18th *April*, and to give me no redreſs. However, I requeſt the favour, that you will let me be acquainted with your reſolution by letter, in the manner uſual on applications to your board; eſpecially as I have a right to expect ſuch a formal avowal of public reſolutions, wherein I am ſo much intereſted.

I am, GENTLEMEN,
Your moſt obedient ſervant,
(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

Calcutta,
the 2d May 1768.

NUM. LXII.

ABSTRACT of a Letter from Mahommed Reza Khawn *to* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq*; *Received the 3d* May 1768.

"ACKNOWLEDGING the receipt of Mr. *Verelſt*'s letter (* C. number) concerning Monſ. *Canonge*; and incloſing copies of the perwânahs ſigned by Mr. *Rumbold*, which the *Armenians*, ſent down by *Bulwantſing*, had as gomaſtahs to Mr. *Hare*."

NUM. LXIII.

ABSTRACT of a Letter from the Rajah Bulwantſing *to* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq*; *Received the 3d May* 1768.

"ACKNOWLEDGING the receipt of Mr. *Verelſt*'s letter († C. number XXXII.) concerning the *Engliſh* gomaſtahs, *&c.* reſiding in the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah*'s country, and promiſing a due compliance with his orders."

* So marked on the Company's records. † Ibid.

NUM.

NUM. LXIV.

COPY of a Letter from Rajah Shetabroy, *at* Patna, *to* William Bolts. *Dated the 9th* May, 1768; *as exhibited and proved before a Committee of the Honourable * Houſe of Commons.*

AFTER the accuſtomed *Perſian* compliments, the receipt of your moſt favourable and friendly letter gave me great pleaſure and ſatisfaction. Therein you write me, that *Cogee Melcomb* and *Cogee Gregore*, your gomaſtahs, had wrote you that I had impriſoned them, and ſent them down to *Murſhedabad*; and you requeſt to know what crimes they had committed to merit ſuch puniſhment? Favourable Sir, the Rajah *Bulwantſing*, under guard of his own people, ſent Monſieur *Canonge*, a *French* gentleman, *Cogee Melcomb* and *Cogee Gregore*, down from *Mirzapore* and *Banáras* to me; and at the ſame time wrote to me, that I muſt ſend them down to *Murſhedabad* in the very ſame manner they were brought to *Patna*. According to the writing of the ſaid Rajah, Monſieur *Canonge*, the *French* gentleman, with *Cogee Melcomb* and *Cogee Gregore*, were diſpatched to *Patna*. At that time it was not known to me, that the ſaid *Cogees*, kind Sir, were your gomaſtahs.—Concludes with the uſual compliments.

NUM. LXV.

COPY of a Letter from Francis Sykes, *Eſq*; *Reſident at the* Durbar, *at* Murſhedabad, *to the Preſident and Select Committee at* Calcutta. *Dated the 13th* May 1768: *wherein he informs the Committee, that the Trade carried on into* Sujah al Dowlah's *Dominions was beneficial to* Bengal, *by the Returns being made in Money.*

To the Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; and the Gentlemen of the Select Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I AM favoured with your two letters, dated the 27th *ultimo*, and am to acquaint you, in reply to your orders for the recal of all perwânahs and duſtucks granted to gomaſtahs, for their reſidence in the dominions of the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah*, that none ſuch have ever been given by me, ſince my reſidence at this place; nor any kind of permiſſion to gomaſtahs for carrying on buſineſs or trading beyond the limits of the *Bengal* and *Bahar* juriſdiction.

The eſtabliſhment of our factory at *Banáras* gave riſe to the cuſtom of granting duſtucks to that place. This practice I found eſtabliſhed on my appointment to the Chiefſhip of *Coſſimbazar*, and the trade being entirely confined to the manufactures of that place, *and beneficial to* Bengal, *by the returns*

* See Journals, Vol. XXXIII. Page 928.

being

being made in money; I was induced by theſe conſiderations not to diſcontinue it till orders were received from you to that purpoſe: at preſent however, as it's continuance appears to be contrary to the regulations you have thought proper to eſtabliſh, I ſhall be extremely careful that they are no ways infringed in this or any other particular.

I am, with much reſpect,

Murſhedabad,
the 13th May 1768.

GENTLEMEN,
Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,
(Signed) FRAN. SYKES.

NUM. LXVI.

COPY *of a Letter from* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq; to the Nabob* Sujah al Dowlah. *Dated the* 14*th* May 1768.

I HAVE received three of your Excellency's letters by the hands of Rajah *Purſed Roy*, and underſtand all the particulars thereof. My ſentiments on the two firſt I have fully communicated to the aforeſaid Rajah, and he will write them to you: and I now return this anſwer to your third favour. It is with concern I find you imagine me not fully acquainted with the particulars of the ſtate of affairs regarding you, as it implies either a doubt of my attention to your concerns, or of the integrity and capacity of thoſe who manage your correſpondence and mine. From the incloſed copy of my laſt *arzee* to the King, under date ———, you will perceive that no repreſentations have been wanting on my ſide in your behalf; and as all my declarations flow from the heart, your Excellency may depend I will never depart from what I write or ſay. If after this his Majeſty ſtill remains averſe, what can I do? I can withdraw my friendſhip and protection, and thoſe of the *Engliſh* Sirdars, from *Moneer al Dowlah*; and if he is refractory, that ſhall be done. But I cannot withdraw *my duty and allegiance to the King, or put any force on his ſacred inclinations.* Let your own heart, my friend, ſtand judge, and do me juſtice; wherein have I failed, or what could I do more? But what can have induced my friend to *have ſurmiſed that his letters to me were not juſtly tranſlated*, and their meaning fully explained to me? *Purſed Roy* muſt have informed your Excellency, that my correſpondence with you is intruſted to two gentlemen in whoſe integrity, capacity, and ſecrecy, I have the moſt deſerved confidence; that every circumſtance of your letters is minutely laid before me: and you yourſelf will acknowledge, that my anſwers bear teſtimony thereto. What point is there which was ever wrote to me which I did not return an explicit anſwer to? Your Excellency, it is true, acquainted Sir *Robert Barker* of your deſire of having your ſon appointed your Naib in the *Vizârut*, but you never gave me the leaſt item of it in your letters. You wrote, indeed, to know whether I approved *Moneer al Dowlah*'s retaining the Naibſhip and Seals, or whether you ſhould have them under your own direction? And to this I write you

you from the plainneſs of the heart, that *Moneer al Dowlah*'s old ſervices to the King and your Excellency (if he was now ſincere) intitled him to a preference in your favour; and if he was not ſincere, I had told you he would forfeit my friendſhip and protection. This your Excellency may reſt aſſured of; and certainly I could not return a more ſatisfactory anſwer to the point upon which you deſired my advice.

In reſpect to the affair of the copies of letters *obtained by Mr.* Bolts, I did not write thoſe letters as matters of ſecrecy, any otherwiſe than as all letters ought to be kept private; but becauſe as copies of ordinary letters were to be obtained by a perſon in his ſituation, copies of the moſt important ones, by the ſame means, might be obtained by people of ſuperior influence. In regard to *Meer Maſhallah*, whom I pointed out as the means, I have mentioned all particulars to * *Purſed Roy*, and he writes them to your Excellency. I will only add, that it is not my cuſtom to ground ſuſpicions on bad foundations. I have certain proofs of his correſpondence with Mr. *Bolts:* and *his former reſidence* † *in this country* furniſhes but too flagrant inſtances of his falſehood and fraud. For this reaſon I have mentioned him as a proper example, to deter others; and I dare ſay your Excellency will be convinced of the neceſſity of it.

NUM. LXVII.

COPY of a Letter from the Nabob Sujah al Dowlah *to* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq*; *Received the* 15*th* May 1768.

I BEFORE wrote you two letters, with all the particulars of the preſent ſtate of things; the negociations in the preſence concerning the *Vizârut*, and my being inveſted with the management of the buſineſs of his Majeſty. On account of my apprehenſions of any miſtake in the tranſlation of theſe into *Engliſh*, I literally informed Colonel *Barker* (who has lately favoured me with a viſit) of all that was in my heart, and the ſituation of affairs, that he might write you the ſame in *Engliſh*, and you perfectly underſtand all particulars without addition or diminution; and his letters I hope you have received, as my real view and ſole deſire is, that the friendſhip between me and the *Engliſh* Sirdars and you may be daily ſtrengthened and increaſe. I thank God that this foundation is firmly laid, to my heart's content: and by the bleſſing of the Almighty it will every day be corroborated and eſtabliſhed, ſeeing I regard no conſideration but your friendſhip and ſatisfaction.

Seeing you, my friend, recommended it to me to proceed by degrees in the affair of the *Vizârut*, the regulation of affairs, and the entering on the charge

* For fear his letters relative to the impriſonment of the *Armenians*, and the obſtruction of the Writer's buſineſs, ſhould appear againſt him, Preſident *Verelſt* here *cautiouſly* gives verbal inſtructions to the Nabob's Ambaſſador in *Calcutta*.

† According to Mr. *Verelſt*'s ideas, falſehood and fraud are the natural conſequences of a man's mere reſidence in *Bengal*.

of the buſineſs of the empire, I by no means wiſh to precipitate matters: whatever you plan and adviſe is doubtleſs beſt for me, and in time every thing will be adjuſted to my heart's content. For the reſt, it is evident I have no enmity or hatred againſt *Moneer al Dowlah*; nor do I wiſh that any harm ſhould happen to *Moneer al Dowlah*, or that he ſhould not remain in the preſence. So far from this, that, if his Majeſty is inclined to heap even greater favours on him than before, I am highly ſatisfied. I have no quarrel with him; let me but enter on my own rights. Should I go into the preſence at the ſame time *Moneer al Dowlah* has poſſeſſion of the buſineſs of the *Vizârut*, when all the people and Mutſeddees are attending on him, and I remain without employ, and a mere ſpectator of this caſe, I leave it to your own equitable deciſion, what a reflection it would be, and what a bad appearance it would have? For all this affair of the *Vizârut* is the work of the *Engliſh* Sirdars; and all I wiſh for in it is the honour of the *Engliſh* word, and my own reputation and good name. Beſides, I wiſh for it on no other account, and your friendſhip is ſufficient for me. Prior to this it was determined, that *Moneer al Dowlah*, in conſequence of your letters to him, ſhould come along with Colonel *Barker*, and that by his mediation all ill impreſſions againſt him ſhould be effaced, and his faults forgiven. After this I was to go into the preſence, and enter on the duties of the *Vizârut*, and my other juſt privileges, according to the received cuſtom. Notwithſtanding his ſacred Majeſty is in his heart by no means well ſatisfied with *Moneer al Dowlah*, yet he having alienated the King's mind from me, therefore his Majeſty will not incline to me. *Moneer al Dowlah* did not come along with Colonel *Barker*, and now lays every thing at the King's door. I mentioned all theſe points to Colonel *Barker*, that he might ſatisfy *Moneer al Dowlah*, and make him eaſy, that I have no enmity or diſlike to *Moneer al Dowlah*; that he ſhould aſſure him, under the ſanction of an oath from me, that he need be under no apprehenſions; that though his Majeſty ſhould honour *Moneer al Dowlah* more even than formerly, I have no exceptions to it, only that he ſhould not employ any one in the affairs of the *Vizârut*. That though his Majeſty was averſe to this at preſent, yet whenever he entered into the ſituation of his own affairs, his wiſdom would then perceive the allegiance, attachment, and good wiſhes of his ſincere vaſſal, and would doubtleſs then honour him with his higheſt favour. In regard to the *Vizârut*, that I have ſo often troubled you upon, and you have ſent ſo friendly a diligence, my heart is perfectly ſatisfied, and that, by the bleſſing of God, it will be brought to bear by degrees. All my deſire is your friendſhip and favour.

Upon a RUKAH.

In regard to the ſecrets being betrayed, and your letters expoſed, concerning which you wrote me, the caſe is this. That from the firſt, till now, we never correſponded on any * ſecret, except the affair of the *Vizârut*, and my being inveſted with the privileges thereof: and upon this ſubject I have received divers of your letters. Beſides this no other ſubject has been wrote

* The Nabob had no conception why the Governor of *Calcutta* ſhould make a myſtery of his orders for impriſoning the *Armenian* Merchants.

upon.

upon. The friendly diligence you have uſed in this affair, and the frequent correſpondences we have had on this ſubject, being notorious, I do own, I frequently enlarge on your goodneſs and favour in public, on your taking ſo much trouble for your friend. But it is impoſſible, and God forbid, that the ſecrets of the Company and Council ſhould be diſcovered, either in paſt or future. Whatever letters I receive from you, after having read them in private, I ſeal them up, and keep them with all care. *I do not underſtand in what manner you have wrote me this.* I have taken an obligation from *Meer Maſhallah* on this matter, and have ſent it by the hands of Captain *Harper*, who will tranſmit it to you. You will make due inquiries from Mr. *Bolts*, who is with you on the ſpot, and get the copies of the letters from him which he ſays he has in his poſſeſſion. If it be proved on *Meer Maſhallah*, he ſhall be puniſhed according to the obligation I have ſent you from him: and I have alſo given poſitive orders that nothing concerning the affair of the *Vizârut* or other matters ſhall be made known to any one; for what neceſſity is there for others to be made acquainted? I will enforce theſe orders: and you will make the ſtricteſt inquiries; for if *Meer Maſhallah* ſhall have heard any thing concerning the affair of the *Vizârut*, which is on foot, and wrote the ſame, I will puniſh him alſo for that. What buſineſs has he with it, and why ſhould he write about theſe things?

Upon another RUKAH.

I have juſt received intelligence, that *Coſſim Alby Khawn* has taken his leave of the *Rohillahs*, and intends going to the *Deckan*. Though I do not think it practicable to get him into our hands, yet I think he may be eaſily cut off. Caution and care are neceſſary in ſuch caſes: for it is notorious *Coſſim* is a compleat villain; and ſhould he go there, what diſturbances will he not raiſe? It is a proverb, that an enemy ſhould never be conſidered as weak. Whatever you ſhall write me on this ſubject, as your's and the Council's determination, I will act agreeably thereto; but a ſpeedy and determined anſwer is neceſſary.

NUM. LXVIII.

* *TRANSLATION of* Meer Maſhallah's Mutchulcah, *or penal Obligation, as ſent by Captain* Gabriel Harper *to Mr.* Vereſt, *with the foregoing Letter of the* 15*th* May 1768.

I *Meer Maſhallah*, finding that divers evil-minded people have reported that I ſent copies to Mr. *Bolts* of the letters which came from the *Engliſh* Sirdars to his Excellency the Nabob † Vizier (whom God long preſerve!) and as I never even took a letter of the *Engliſh* Sirdars in my hand, much leſs could be acquainted with the purport of them, or take copies, do therefore agree, and here by theſe preſents covenant, that if this thing ſhall be proved, that I

* Journals of the Houſe of Commons, Vol. XXXIII. Page 428.
† The Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah.*

have ſent copies of the letters of the *Engliſh* Sirdars to Mr. *Bolts*, or any other, or if ever I diſcovered to any one any ſecret communicated by his Excellency to me, I ſhall be deemed guilty before his Excellency. If any letter under my ſeal appears concerning the aforeſaid matter, let his Excellency DESTROY ME AND MY FAMILY, *and puniſh me as a guilty perſon:* and if this is not proved, let the evil-minded be put to death, that ſuch wicked abominable people may take warning. I have therefore *(Meer Maſhallah)* given theſe preſents as an obligation, this ninth day of *Zilkejah*, in the year of the *Higera* 1187.

L. S.

NUM. LXIX.

COPY of a Petition to the Preſident and Council at Calcutta, *as preſented to Mr.* Vereſt *by the Relations of the impriſoned* Armenians, Cogee Gregore Cojamaul *and* Cogee Melcomb Philip. *Dated* Calcutta, *the 15th* May 1768; *as proved before a Committee of the* * *Honourable Houſe of Commons.*

To the Honourable *Harry Vereſt*, Eſq; Preſident and Governor, and the Gentlemen of the Council at *Fort William.*

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

WE the ſubſcribers to this humble addreſs, relations of *Cogee Melcomb Philip* and *Cogee Gregore Cojamaul Caldar*, beg leave to repreſent to your Honours, that our ſaid relations have, for ſix or ſeven years paſt, been conſtantly employed, by different *Engliſh* gentlemen in the Honourable Company's ſervice, as agents in the tranſactions of their mercantile affairs, with honour and credit to themſelves, and to the ſatisfaction of their employers, without having ever interfered in any affairs of other nature than mercantile, on the tranſactions of which they were latterly left, by their conſtituents, to conclude and collect in their outſtanding concerns, in the diſtricts of *Banáras*, *Patna*, *&c.* That they have been lately ſeized by force, and kept in great diſtreſs under confinement by the Nabob and his officers, firſt at *Patna*, and now actually at *Murſhedabad*, ever ſince the 31ſt of *March* paſt, without the leaſt cauſe of complaint that we can diſcover: That, by the ſaid confinement, the priſoners are expoſed to great diſtreſs, loſs of their health or lives, the ruination of their families, and of us, your Honour's, *&c.* humble repreſentants: That on applications which have been made to the Nabob, for their releaſement, he refuſes to grant it without expreſs orders from your Honour, *&c.* which makes us extremely ſorry and apprehenſive, leſt they ſhould have juſtly

* Journals, Vol. XXXHI. Page 928.

incurred

incurred the diſpleaſure of your Honour, *&c.* In the mean time we humbly beg leave to repreſent, that ſhould they have been guilty of any miſdemeanors, we are ready to give ſuch ſecurity, either for money or their appearance when called for, as the Nabob can juſtly require, or to your Honours may appear reaſonable; and as they are houſeholders of this city of *Calcutta*, and have long enjoyed the benefit of the protection of the Honourable Company, to whoſe intereſt, we will venture to affirm, they never acted contrary; we therefore humbly hope your Honours will pleaſe to grant an order for their releaſement, which will be a laſting obligation conferred on,

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Your moſt faithful

and devoted ſervants,

MARY COJAMAUL CALDAR,	Mother	of *Cogee Gregore.*
CATHARINE GREGORE,	Wife	
ZACHARIAH COJAMAUL CALDAR,	Brother	
AVIATT MARCAR,	Uncle	of *Cogee Melcomb.*
AVIATT CALDAR,	Relations	
ARRATOON CALDAR,		

Calcutta, the 15th May 1768.

NUM. LXX.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings at a Conſultation held in Calcutta, *on the* 18*th* May 1768; *as exhibited before a Committee of the Honourable* * *Houſe of Commons.*

At a Conſultation held at *Calcutta*, the 18th *May* 1768,

Preſent, The Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident,
Colonel *Richard Smith*,
Richard Becher,
James Alexander,
Claud Ruſſell,
William Alderſey, and
Charles Ffloyer, Eſquires.

THE Select Committee lay before us the following extract from their proceedings of the 27th *ultimo*.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Select Committee, the 27th April 1768.

" This Board being ſenſible of the great diſadvantages reſulting from an immediate recal of gomaſtahs of individuals, at preſent trading in the countries of the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah* and *Bulwantſing*, under *the ſanction of the Engliſh*, it is reſolved to allow them to reſide there for the ſpace of two months, for the adjuſtment of the affairs of their conſtituents, and the collection of

* See Journals, Vol. XXXIII. Page 917.

their outſtanding balances, and ſhall on no account whatever be allowed to engage in any new concern; and that they ſhall quit thoſe countries immediately after the expiration of the term limited for their reſidence.

And in order to facilitate the adjuſtments of their affairs, as well as to prevent the frauds and other abuſes to which ſuch a reſtriction might otherwiſe expoſe them, it is further reſolved and agreed, that the Preſident do inform the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah* and *Bukwantſing* of theſe injunctions laid upon all gomaſtahs in their countries, and to requeſt they will grant them every reaſonable aſſiſtance they may require for the ſpeedy regulation of their concerns.

Agreed, That the foregoing reſolutions be laid before the Preſident and Council; and that we do recommend to them to iſſue their orders for effectually preventing in future any trade being carried on *beyond the Provinces*, by gomaſtahs aſſuming the *Engliſh* name.

A true Extract.

(Signed) CHARLES FFLOYER,
Secretary to the Select Committee."

The ſame having been read, and we concurring in opinion therewith, it is agreed and reſolved, that *after the expiration of two months from the 27th April*, no gomaſtahs employed by the *Engliſh* ſhall be permitted to remain in any part of *India*, out of the provinces of *Bengal*, *Bahar*, and *Oriſſa*; and after that period, that no Company's ſervant, free merchant, or other *European*, reſiding under the Company's protection, ſhall be ſuffered to carry on any inland trade, directly or indirectly, beyond thoſe limits, under penalty, if a Company's ſervant, of being immediately diſmiſſed the ſervice; if a free merchant, or other *European*, of forfeiting the Company's protection.

And it is further agreed and reſolved, that if any *European* whatever ſhall attempt to tranſport any merchandize beyond the Provinces, all ſuch merchandize ſhall be SEIZED AND CONFISCATED, and the gomaſtahs having charge of ſuch contraband trade ſhall be puniſhed with the greateſt ſeverity.

All *Armenians*, *Portugueſe*, *or the deſcendants of Armenians and Portugueſe*, are included in the above reſtrictions, it being intended that none but the *natives of the country (Muſſulmen and Hindoos)* ſhall in future enjoy this * privilege.

Ordered, That public notice be given of this reſolution; and *agreed*, that we acquaint the gentlemen at the ſubordinates of the ſame, and ſend them a copy of the publication made here, that it may be iſſued at their reſpective reſidencies alſo.

* A right of trading, or of buying and ſelling, which is naturally inherent in all men, is here deemed a privilege in the diſpenſation of the Board. But it might be curious to be informed by the wiſdom of theſe legiſlators, how the "*Armenians and their deſcendants*," born in *India*, and whoſe predeceſſors were eſtabliſhed there before the commencement of the *Mogul* Empire, were to be diſtinguiſhed from the natives?

NUM. LXXI.

ABSTRACT of a Letter from the Rajah Bulwantſing *to* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq; Received the 27th May* 1768.

"ACKOWLEDGING the receipt of Mr. *Verelſt*'s letter, reproving him for his harſhneſs and ſevere treatment of Monſ. *Canonge*, and informing him that gentleman has now leave to return for two months to ſettle his affairs. He aſſures Mr. *Verelſt* he treated Monſ. *Canonge* with all civility and ſent him down according to his orders, but aſſiſted him with all neceſſaries and conveniences. Upon a *rukah* he denies having given copies of Mr. *Verelſt*'s letters, as Mr. *Verelſt* had taxed him with, and deſires Mr. *Verelſt* to inquire into the truth of it."

NUM. LXXII.

EXTRACT of a Letter from Francis Hare, *Eſq; at* Patna, *to* William Bolts. *Dated 28th* May 1768; *expreſſing his fears of communicating a Letter which he had received from the Rajah* Bulwantſing.

"Dear BOLTS,

I WROTE you under date the 13th inſtant, incloſing copies of my correſpondence with Mr. *Verelſt*; ſince which I have received your favour of the 12th.

As I look upon my ſituation here to be but on a tickliſh foundation, I cannot at preſent run the riſque of incloſing you the letter you want, but whenever you may have occaſion for it in *England*, it ſhall be forthcoming.

I am, *&c.*

(Signed) FRANCIS HARE."

NUM. LXXIII.

ABSTRACT of Letter from Harry Verelſt, *Eſq; to the Rajah* Bulwantſing. *Dated the 29th* May 1768.

"DESIRING him to releaſe ſome boats belonging to Mr. *Alexander*, which he had detained; and warning him againſt ſuch proceedings in future."

NUM.

NUM. LXXIV.

TRANSLATION, from the French, *of a Letter from Monſ.* Canonge, *to Mr.* William Bolts *at* Calcutta.

SIR,

I HAVE received the letter which you did me the honour to write me the 8th of the preſent month. I can give you no lights reſpecting the two *Armenians* who were arreſted at *Banáras:* they had ſet off for *Patna* when I was brought to *Banáras*; and their order, which Mr. *Verelſt* had ſent, was ſeparate from mine. As I did not know the ſaid *Armenians*, and was ignorant of their belonging to you, I paid no attention to the reading of the orders of Mr. *Verelſt*, when they were read to me. I am ſorry, Sir, that I cannot give you greater lights; but I have been aſſured, that Mr. *Hare*, Second at *Patna*, has received a * letter from the Rajah *Bulwantſing*, wherein he teſtifies how ſorry he was for having ſent away the *Armenians* to *Patna*, but that orders from his ſuperiors had obliged him to do it.—This, Sir, is all the eclarciſſement which I can give you touching the affair you deſire. If I can ſerve you in any thing elſe, pray do not ſpare me, and believe me to be, very ſincerely,

SIR,

Patna, 31*ſt May* 1768.

Your moſt humble, and moſt obedient ſervant,
(Signed) CANONGE.

NUM. LXXV.

COPY of a Letter from the Nabob Sujah al Dowlah *to* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq*; *Received the* 31*ſt* May 1768.

I HAVE received your friendly letter concerning the *Engliſh* gomaſtahs, and have been made happy thereby. I am not ſo inconſiderate myſelf as to offer the leaſt injury to thoſe belonging to the *Engliſh* Company, and what power then can my aumils have to ſay any thing to them, much leſs oppreſs or moleſt them? I conſider the *Engliſh* honour and my own as the ſame. *Prior to this you wrote me not to ſuffer any gomaſtahs of the* Engliſh *to trade in my country. Colonel* Smith *was with me at the time, and agreeably to what he ſaid I ſent orders to all of them*; and now, to prevent the *Engliſh* gomaſtahs taking it ill if my people were to tell them to depart, I have deſired Captain *Harper* to ſend his people to remove them from the different places, which he has done, and *I have not meddled myſelf therein.* It is plain their removal was

* This is the letter mentioned by Mr. *Hare*, in Num. LXXII. Page 405.

effected

effected not without a thouſand difficulties and troubles, and now that you, my friend, write me for their farther delay, ſhould (which God avert) they again get a new delay, you may depend upon it the remedy hereafter will be very difficult, and I will be ſubjected to ſevere inconveniencies. There are none to buy or ſell goods from, and to them, except the Zemindars; and what power have the Zemindars to become purchaſers. I therefore requeſt you to conſider theſe things well, and write to Captain *Harper* to recover them their money wherever they may be. The longer remaining of the gomaſtahs is by no means proper, but as I prefer obliging you to every conſideration; if, *in ſpite of every thing you* * *inſiſt upon it, I am without remedy.*

NUM. LXXVI.

COPY of a Letter from Harry Verelſt, *Eſq; to the Nabab* Sujah al Dowlah. *Dated the* 6*th* June 1768.

I HAVE received your Excellency's letter, with a copy of his Majeſty's Royal *Shukah* incloſed, and underſtand all the particulars thereof. It is true his Majeſty has deſired my attendance in the preſence, and it is probable that *Moneer al Dowlah* thought by this means to procraſtinate matters, as he imagined the buſineſs of the ſhips, *&c.* at this ſeaſon would render my journey upwards impracticable; however I am determined to fruſtrate all his arts, and have reſolved to have a meeting with your Excellency ſoon, and will then enter on ſuch meaſures as may adjuſt every thing finally to your Excellency's and my own ſatisfaction, and of this you may reſt fully aſſured. In regard to *Moneer al Dowlah*'s coming here, I have no knowledge of it; and I ſhall be highly diſpleaſed if he takes ſuch a ſtep without previouſly conſulting me. Upon this head let your heart reſt perfectly eaſy as no repreſentations of *Moneer al Dowlah*, or others, can make me depart from my reſolutions of ſettling your Excellency's affairs in the preſence.

Upon a RUKAH.

In regard to the *Engliſh* gomaſtahs, I apprehend your Excellency did not intirely attend to my meaning. I only deſired that they might be aſſiſted in recovering money due to them, and have a certain time allowed them for the diſpoſal or removal of their effects. So far from wiſhing the continuance even of a ſingle one of them, that *I have given the ſtricteſt orders to prohibit trade into your Excellency's country by* Engliſh *gentlemen, under the ſevereſt penalties; and to prevent it effectually, I have placed guards at the* Caramnaſſa *and* Dewah, to ſtop all who may attempt the ſame. Your Excellency may reſt

* If this letter had been properly tranſlated, it would have afforded the ſtrongeſt proof of the Nabob's diſinclination to impriſon and moleſt the trade of merchants, againſt whom he had no complaints, but ſolely for the gratification of Colonel *Smith* and Mr. *Verelſt*.

aſſured,

aſſured, that there is nothing I have more at heart than the cutting off every poſſible ſource of uneaſineſs or trouble.

Upon a RUKAH.

A ſhip from *England* is arrived within theſe few days. I have received a variety of letters from Lord *Clive*, who is on the recovery, and deſires to be remembered to your Excellency. The farther particulars of the news from *Europe*, and the *Deckan* I have communicated to *Purſed Roy*, who will write* them to your Excellency.

LXXVII.

COPY of a Letter from Harry Verelſt, *Eſq*; *to the Rajah* Bulwantſing. *Dated the 6th* June 1768.

I RECEIVED your letters in anſwer to mine, and am ſurpriſed to find you endeavouring to ſcreen yourſelf under evaſion and pretence, inſtead of acting in conformity to what I write. I am no ſtranger to what paſſes *either in your houſe or heart*, and I muſt recommend it to you to quit ſuch a ſyſtem of conduct, and ſuch diſpoſitions of mind, if you are deſirous that the *Engliſh* protection and my countenance ſhould be continued to you. After this I ſhall give myſelf no farther trouble about you; but if you continue ſuch behaviour, I ſhall leave you to reap the fruits of your own miſconduct. I deſire therefore that you would ſeriouſly reflect on theſe things.

Upon a RUKAH.

I have received certain information, that you have reported at *Banáras* that you receive different directions through your vakeel and my letters. As I never ordered your vakeel to acquaint you with any thing from me, he muſt have wrote you falſely, or you have formed this as an excuſe. *I have now directed him to quit* Calcutta, and you will pay no regard in future to any thing in my name, except what is under my hand and ſeal.

NUM. LXXVIII.

COPY of an Affidavit of Cogee Gabriel Johannes, *relative to his Application to Governor* Verelſt, *in* June 1768, *for the Releaſement of* Johannes Padre Rafael.

COGEE GABRIEL JOHANNES, Merchant, and inhabitant of *Calcutta*, maketh oath, and ſaith, That his nephew *Cogee Johannes Padre Rafael* was for a long time employed by Mr. *William Bolts* in diverſe places, particularly at

* In this place the Reader will obſerve, that the letter (E, Num. II. Page 347) in which *William Bolts* communicated ſimilar *news from* Europe, to Monſ. *Gentil*, was given by the Preſident and Council, as a proof of the expediency of ſending him a priſoner to *England*. See F, Num. XXII. Par. LXXVI.

Fyzabad,

Fyzabad, as his agent in the tranſaction of his mercantile concerns; and where he alſo had conſiderable dealings of his own. That having received news, that his ſaid nephew, in conſequence of orders given by the Honourable Governor *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; of *Calcutta*, was ſeized and impriſoned, on or about the 27th *March* 1768, at *Fyzabad*, by Captain *Gabriel Harper*, and by him ſent to *Illahabad*, where he was continued under confinement by Colonel Sir *Robert Barker*; he did, on or about the 13th *June* 1768, wait upon the ſaid Governor, with a petition, in the *Portugueſe* language, requeſting orders for his releaſement, and permiſſion for him to ſtay up the country only two or three months, for to collect his effects, and thereby ſave his family from ruin. And this deponent farther ſaith, that on the ſaid 13th day of *June*, after delivering the petition to the ſaid Governor, he ſaid, "the petition muſt be firſt tranſlated" for him, and thereupon put it in his pocket, without giving any orders thereupon; and therefore he, this deponent, again, on or about the 20th of *June*, waited upon the ſaid Governor with a petition in *Engliſh*, which he delivered to the Governor, who was going out, with two other gentlemen, in a chariot: and after reading the petition, the ſaid Honourable Governor was pleaſed to order, that the ſaid *Cogee Johannes Padre Rafael* ſhould not ſtay up the country, but muſt come down to *Calcutta*. Whereupon this deponent ſaid, that his fortune being ſcattered about in different parts there, he, *Rafael*, in that caſe would be ruined: to which the ſaid Honourable Governor only anſwered, in *Moors*, "*Khraby neighn hoga*," (there will be no ruin in the caſe) and immediately went down ſtairs and ſet off in the chariot; and farther this deponent ſaith not.

(Signed) GABRIEL JOHANNES.

Swort in Court this 12th Day of Aug. 1768.
JOHN HOLME, Regiſter. *The Mayor's Court Seal.*

CORNELIUS GOODWIN, Mayor. L. S.
RICHARD BARWELL, Alderman. L. S.

NUM. LXXIX.

COPY of a Letter from the Nabob Sujah al Dowlah *to* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq; Received the 4th* July 1768.

I RECEIVED your welcome letter, incloſing copy of your * Arzee to the Preſence, and informing me of divers occurrences. When ſhall I ceaſe thanking you for your gracious favours? If I was to write the ſmalleſt part of your friendſhip I ſhould fill volumes. It is moſt certain the pains you have taken to ſerve your friend, and the ſteadineſs with which you attend to his affairs, are owing to your goodneſs and regard: for you have repeatedly declared, that "till the affair of the Vizârut is ſettled, I will never ceaſe labour-

* Mr. *Verelſt*'s letter to *Shah Allum*.

ing the point." May the Moſt High preſerve you in ſafety. I am now ſatisfied in my own heart, and in all reſpects ſecure, that, by the bleſſing of God, now theſe are the thoughts of my friend, the matter will be ſettled in the twinkling of an eye. There is no need of writing or reminding more. You are now yourſelf engaged to yourſelf, and according to what you have wrote and ſaid you are performing, I have ſtill higher expectations from you.

And as to the miſtakes of the tranſlations, nothing is more juſt, or true, than what you have written. The abilities and integrity of the gentlemen you employ are what you repreſent them to be; and no man could ſuppoſe any omiſſion to proceed from thence. I can account for this no otherwiſe than from the careleſſneſs of my own Munſhys, for ſuch a ſurmiſe never entered into my imagination. I might have written ſomething to *Purſed Roy* indeed, by way of adding to his diligence; but nothing could ever lead to a ſuppoſition, that the tranſlations are wrong, or ill rendered. I beg your Excellency will give this matter no place in your heart, nor form any contrary ſuppoſitions thereupon, for I have the higheſt opinion of the † tranſlators, and conſider them as my friends.

I wrote you in a prior letter a full and particular anſwer about Mr. *Bolts* and *Meer Maſhallah*, and I have repeated the ſame circumſtances anew to Rajah *Purſed Roy*, from whom you will be informed. I have written my whole heart, without omitting or diſguiſing any thing, or deviating the breadth of a hair. *Agreeably to your own deſire, I ſome time ago returned your Excellency all thoſe letters of yours which related to that ſubject. Meer Maſhallah* has given an obligation under his own hand, which if he has violated, I will immediately bring him to the puniſhment contained therein.

It is evident, that *Moneer al Dowlah* is not yet returned to the right road, and that in ſpite of all the letters and friendly efforts of your Excellency, he has never thought of it ſeriouſly; but ſpins out time in daily protractions, and ſupports his intriguing character with the ſtrongeſt obſtinacy of ſpirit. At any rate, I am eaſy in my own heart, ſeeing your friendſhip ſupports me; and I reſt aſſured, that you will bring about what is beſt for your friend. I have no thought but for the friendſhip and ſatisfaction of your Excellency: That is a higher conſideration, and better than any thing beſides. But, my friend, judge in this matter yourſelf. His Majeſty is diſguſted with me, becauſe *Moneer al Dowlah* has prompted him to be ſo, and alienated him from me; and that his Majeſty rejects me, is purely owing to the inſinuations of *Moneer al Dowlah*. The ſum of what I want is, that your Excellency ſhould be convinced, from plain and undeniable facts, of *Moneer al Dowlah* being the original cauſe of all thoſe acts and calumnies, and that your friendſhip is ſingly ſufficient for me. It is very true that I ſpoke to Colonel *Barker* about nominating my ſon *Aſuph al Dowlah* to the Naibſhip of the *Vizârut*; but did not mean that he ſhould be advanced to that dignity immediately. I

† The Reader will pleaſe to remember that the chief tranſlator was Mr. *Robert Maddiſon*, on whoſe tranſlations, Mr. *Verelſt* has told the Nabob (E, Num. LXVI.) he had the moſt implicit reliance. See alſo B, Num. XX, Page 295.

only

only meant, that he ſhould be preſent with your friend in the Royal Court, and initiate himſelf in the tranſactions there; that in caſe of any grand and ſerious event, which would require my attendance in perſon, I might repair to you (the high Preſence) and leave my ſon in charge of the Naibſhip. There has ariſen this difference in the declaration of your friend, and the manner of Colonel *Barker*'s repreſenting it, which has miſled you. In reality, I never made ſuch a propoſal: but in caſes of neceſſity, if any thing ſhould accidentally happen, then indeed I talked of delegating the Naibſhip to my ſon, and not till then.

NUM. LXXX.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts, *dated the 8th* July 1768, *to Colonel Sir* Robert Barker, *then commanding the Brigade at* Illahabad.

To Colonel Sir *Robert Barker*.

SIR,

MY agent *Cogee Johannes Padre Rafael*, whom, with the permiſſion of the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah*, and conformably to the cuſtom of other *Engliſh* gentlemen, I had employed in thoſe parts, in collecting my outſtanding balances, to a very conſiderable amount, and for the concluſion of unfiniſhed mercantile affairs, of great concern to me; having been for a conſiderable time confined, as he informs me, by your orders, and by the troops under your command; and taken from *Fyzabad* to *Illahabad*, whence, after ſome time being kept priſoner, he was ſent to *Patna*, where he lately arrived: I am thereby likely to be a very conſiderable loſer, my effects and the concerns under his management being left expoſed to plunder and ruin.

I do not preſume to think, but that you have acted upon good grounds, and with reaſons that will juſtify the impriſonment of my ſaid agent, or elſe in conſequence of orders which you were under a neceſſity of executing. But as I have not yet been able to diſcover any fault in the conduct of my agent, or reaſons that could, in any ſhape, juſtify the ſaid impriſonment, I requeſt you will be pleaſed to acquaint me with the reaſons or orders you may have had for it.

As it is matter of the greateſt conſequence to me, I hope that, as your prudence will ſhow you the neceſſity, ſo your candour will excuſe the freedom of this addreſs.

I am, with great reſpect,
SIR,
Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,
(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

Calcutta,
8th July 1768.

NUM. LXXXI.

COPY of a Letter from the Nabob Sujah al Dowlah *to* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq; Received the 15th* July 1768.

I HAVE received your friendly letters from Rajah *Purſed Roy*, and have been fully informed of YOUR RESOLUTIONS, of withdrawing the *Engliſh* gomaſtahs from my territories; of ſettling the affair in his Majeſty's preſence; and of bringing all my wiſhes to a fortunate iſſue. I cannot ſufficiently thank you for all your good offices to your friend. May the Almighty long preſerve ſuch a pattern of beneficence! I have written divers other particulars to *Purſed Roy*, which your Excellency will hear from his mouth.

NUM. LXXXII.

COPY of a Letter from Captain James Ducarell *to* William Bolts. *Dated* Banáras, *the 26th* July 1768.

To Mr. *William Bolts.*

DEAR SIR,

I RECEIVED yeſterday your favour of the 10th inſtant, incloſing a letter for *Surat*, which I have this day forwarded to its addreſs *per* expreſs * *Coſſids*. The Hircarahs would not undertake to deliver it in leſs than forty days from this date, as the country is almoſt under water.

† *Goaldaſs*, juſt before the new year, was for ſome days in confinement, but it was in a good room at *Moneer al Dowlah*'s (no fault of *Moneer al Dowlah*'s) and he was well treated; but as to the inferior ſervants, *they were not only put in priſon, but flogged:* I cannot juſt now tell their names.

I have been for ſome days at *Banáras* for a change of air. I had a naſty fever hanging upon me, which I could not get rid of at *Illahabad*. I return you thanks for your opinion concerning the late regulations. As long as a certain perſon is abſent, I have ſtill ſome intereſt here. Be ſo good to ſend your letters to Mr. *Kiernander*, deſiring him to incloſe them to Mr. *Flor*, who begs his beſt compliments.

I am, with great regard, *&c. &c.*

Banáras, 26th July 1768. (Signed) JAMES DUCARELL.

* Poſtmen, ſo called.

† A native *Hindoo*-gomaſtah of the writer's.

NUM.

NUM. LXXXIII.

COPY of a Letter from Harry Verelſt, *Eſq; to the Nabob* Sujah al Dowlah. *Dated the 27th* July 1768.

I HAVE received your Excellency's letter concerning *Manickram Boſe*, and underſtand from that and other authorities, that he has given himſelf out to you as a perſon ſent by me, and has entered upon ſeveral matters of buſineſs. He has made up this ſtory of himſelf, and only came AT MR. RUMBOLD, CHIEF OF PATNA'S * REQUEST; and *from him to aſſiſt in removing the troubles divers perſons were giving your Excellency, by carrying on trade in your dominions.* Beſides this, he has no buſineſs, nor any other connection with me. I therefore write this *to caution* your Excellency againſt communicating to him either *any of our mutual buſineſs or letters*, as ſuch people are not to be intruſted with ſecrets. Whatever I ſhall have to communicate to you, excluſive of what I write, I will always do it *through Captain* Harper or Rajah *Purſed Roy.*

NUM. LXXXIV.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to the Preſident and Council of* Calcutta, *on the Impriſonment of his Agents, and the Preſident's diſgracing the Rajah* Bulwantſing's *Ambaſſador, and turning him out of* Calcutta, *on a mere Suppoſition of his having furniſhed* W. Bolts *with Intelligence. Dated the 27th* July 1768.

To *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident and Governor, and
John Cartier,
Richard Smith,
Richard Becher,
James Alexander,
Claud Ruſſell,
William Alderſey, and
Charles Ffloyer, Eſquires, Members of the Council for Affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies*.

GENTLEMEN,

ON the behalf of my agents, *Cogee Gregore Cojamaul*, *Cogee Melcomb Philip*, and *Cogee Johannes Padre Rafael*, I take the liberty of troubling you with this addreſs, forced by duty to maintain their cauſe, who, ſolely on my

* The Nabob might have given credit to this aſſertion, if he had not been before informed by Mr. *Verelſt* (ſee E, Num. XXII.) that he himſelf had directed Mr. *Rumbold* to ſend up this truſty perſon, to enable the Nabob to detect impoſtors. But the offices of this *Patna*-conjurer were at this time rendered unneceſſary, by the more convenientagency of Captain *Harper*.

account,

account, have ſuffered a long and ſevere impriſonment, and are likely to be totally ruined; one of them being alſo in danger of loſing his life from a diſorder, rivetted and fixed upon him by the ſufferings of his body and mind during his confinement. And in hopes, that though my repreſentations in behalf of my own caſe, have not been deemed to merit your attention, yet the particular ſufferings of theſe men may excite your compaſſion to action, in reſcuing them and their families from the total ruin which threatens them.

On the 15th *May* paſt, the relations of *Cogee Gregore* and *Cogee Melcomb* did themſelves the honour of preſenting an humble * addreſs to your Honourable Board, which they delivered to the Preſident, acquainting the Board of the diſtreſs they laboured under by the impriſonment and detention of their perſons then at *Murſhedavad*. After the application made by the ſaid addreſs, delivered to the Preſident; on the 23d of *May* following, they were releaſed from their confinement, and arrived in this city on the 8th *June*: *Cogee Melcomb* having been confined, in all, from the 12th *March* to the 23d *May*, being two months and eleven days, and *Cogee Gregore* from the 14th *March* to the 23d *May*, being two months and nine days. On the 10th *June* they did themſelves the honour to wait upon the Preſident, *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; to thank him for their releaſement; and, among other things, acquainted him of their having acted alſo upon the authority of perwânahs, under the Seal of the Honourable united *Eaſt India* Company; ſeveral of which perwânahs are in my poſſeſſion, and one of them being on a ſubſequent day ſhewn to the Preſident in conſequence of his requeſt, he was pleaſed *to put it in his pocket*. Upon obſerving that it was regiſtered, he became angry, and thereupon abſolutely refuſed to grant them the neceſſary perwânahs for recovering their effects; th[illegible]n the ſaid Preſident had been pleaſed to give perwânahs upon the Nabob *Mahommed Reza Khawn*, Rajah *Shetabroy*, and the Rajah *Bulwantſing*, in favour of a *French* gentleman named Monſieur *Canonge*, who came down, under confinement, from *Patna* to *Murſhedabad* in company with the ſaid *Armenians*, and was in conſequence of the ſaid perwânahs immediately releaſed, and permitted to return up the country to collect his effects. *Cogee Johannes Padre Rafael* has likewiſe, in the ſame manner, been ſeized, taken from his effects and the management of the concerns with which he was intruſted, and confined ever ſince the 27th *March* paſt, being, according to my laſt advices, alſo ſtill detained in confinement at *Murſhedabad*.

In the mean time a publication has been made, by the authority of your Honourable Board, prohibiting n[illegible]t only the *Engliſh* and their deſcendants, but alſo all *Armenians*, and the deſcendants of *Armenians* living under the Company's protection, from trading, directly or indirectly, *out of the provinces of* Bengal, Bahar, *and* Oriſſa, under penalty of the utmoſt ſevere puniſhment, and of the ſeizure and confiſcation of their property. I therefore beg leave to repreſent, on behalf of thoſe unhappy merchants, that their whole fortunes, to a very conſiderable amount, are diſperſed in thoſe prohibited diſtricts; that they are amenable for the very large outſtanding concerns which they were intruſted with the management of; that they never knew, or were ever acquainted with the above orders and prohibitions, till they were lately iſſued; long before which, by their ſudden ſeizure and impriſonment,

* See Num. LXIX. Page [illegible].

ment, they were taken from their habitations, and obliged to leave every thing expoſed to plunder and ruin; not knowing what has, or will become of their ſaid property and concerns. And conſidering the treatment they have met with, and the orders you have been lately pleaſed to publiſh, they dare not attempt to interfere in the preſervation of their property, for fear of corporal puniſhment and confiſcation: while, in the mean time, they are not conſcious of any crime; but, on the contrary, are certain they have never, in the moſt diſtant manner, injured the Honourable Company, neither given the Board any cauſe to be diſpleaſed with them.

I farther beg leave to repreſent, that numbers of other *Engliſh* agents and gomaſtahs are not only *ſtill permitted, but protected* in reſiding within the provinces of *Owd*, *Illahabad*, and *Banáras*, from whence theſe merchants have been forcibly brought.

And notwithſtanding the Preſident and Members of your Board have aſſured me, they know nothing of any orders for the confinement of theſe merchants, yet the Country-governors pretend they have received ſuch orders. Admitting, therefore, that this may have been occaſioned by the malicious practices of unknown evil-minded perſons, on the behalf of theſe injured gentlemen, I requeſt you will pleaſe to order to be written and ſent to me, letters to the Nabob *Mahommed Reza Khawn*, Rajah *Shetabroy*, Rajah *Bulwantſing*, and the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah*, to acquaint them, that the confinement of theſe Merchants, or their baniſhment, was never ordered or deſired by the Preſident or Council; and that they may be permitted in the ſame manner, and with the ſame privileges as others in the ſame circumſtances, to finiſh their concerns, and to collect and bring down their effects, without fear of corporal puniſhment, or confiſcation of their properties.

As you have already acquainted me with your determination, not to interfere with reſpect to what concerns me in particular, pleaſe to remark, that I only make this my laſt application, as is incumbent upon me, in behalf of my injured agents; being deſirous, as much as in me lies, to guard them from the total ruin with which they are threatened.

But notwithſtanding what has been before ſaid, by the intelligence I have obtained from *Banáras*, and the information of Monſ. *Canonge*, I am convinced that the Preſident, whatever he may have perſuaded the reſt of the Board to believe, did himſelf actually give the orders for the confinement of my aboveſaid agents, particularly to the Rajah *Bulwantſing*. One principal circumſtance, among others, which confirms this perſwaſion being of a very extraordinary nature, it is neceſſary I ſhould inform your Honourable Board of it. Mr. *Verelſt*, on a preſumption that the ſaid Rajah had made public and given copies of the ſeveral orders ſent to him, wrote him a very ſevere perwânah, forbidding him ever to furniſh any one with copies of the orders he ſhould ſend him: and for the ſame reaſon the ſaid Rajah's Ambaſſador has been lately diſgraced, and the Rajah informed, that he was diſmiſſed and ordered away from *Calcutta*. Upon a ſtricter inquiry here, I alſo find, that it is true, that the ſaid Ambaſſador has received his * diſmiſſion, and a duſ-

* See E, Num. LXXVII. and LXXXVI.

tuck has been given for his journey from *Calcutta* to *Banáras*; though upon private repreſentations, he has been induced to remain in town, *incognito*.

The conſequences of the diſgraceful diſmiſſion of an Ambaſſador are obvious. But if I could not prove it to be fact, I ſhould hardly think it credible, that the Preſident's private pique and motives for ſcreening himſelf in my affairs, ſhould have carried him ſuch lengths as to riſque the friendſhip of ſo powerful a frontier ally as the Rajah *Bulwantſing*, at a time when you are apprehenſive for the peace of the country, and know not how ſoon the Honourable Company may be engaged in ruinous hoſtilities. I ſhould have been wanting in my duty to myſelf and to the Public, had I not acquainted you with this extraordinary anecdote; of which you will pleaſe to make ſuch uſe as your prudence may dictate, and the public welfare require. I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

Fort William,
27th July 1768. (Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

NUM. LXXXV.

COPY of a Letter from Rajah Shetabroy *to* William Bolts. *Dated* Patna, *the* 31*ſt of* July 1768; *as exhibited and proved before a Committee of the Honourable* * *Houſe of Commons.*

AFTER the uſual compliments, I received your favourable letter, wherein you write, "that it appears to you, my favourable friend, that another of your gomaſtahs, named *Cogee Rafael*, who was in thoſe parts, has been impriſoned and brought down to me; and that I had continued the ſaid *Rafael* under confinement, and with my own people ſent him down to *Murſhedabad*; and that, as you," kind Sir, "are unacquainted with the crime the ſaid *Rafael* has committed, to merit my confining and putting a guard upon him, you therefore requeſt I will acquaint you with the ſaid *Rafael*'s crime." My dear Sir, I did not know that *Rafael* was your gomaſtah, *nor am I in the leaſt acquainted with any fault he has committed.* Colonel *Barker*, *Bahadre*, wrote to me, that he had diſpatched to me *Cogee Rafael* and two *Armenians*, who in the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah*'s country had been in confinement under Captain *Harper*, who had ſent them to him, Colonel *Barker*; accordingly I diſpatched them to the Nabob † *Khane Khanaan Mobazez al Mulk*, *Bahadre*, at *Murſhedabad*. *The particulars of their faults or their innocence muſt be known to Mr.* Harper *himſelf*; *with reſpect to me*, *kind Sir*, *do not believe me capable of any thing contrary to the ſtricteſt friendſhip towards you*; you ſhall know me your own friend.

* See Journals, Vol. XXXIII. Page 929. † One of the titles of *Mahommed Reza Khawn.*

NUM.

NUM. LXXXVI.

COPY of a Letter from Harry Verelſt, *Eſq; to the Rajah* Bulwantſing. *Dated the 12th* Auguſt 1768.

I HAVE received your letter, interceding for the pardon of your Vakeel, and his re-admiſſion to my preſence. As your Vakeel has brought my reſentment upon his head, by his notorious bad conduct, you cannot expect that I ſhould extend my * favour to him again, neither will it be for your honour or intereſt to keep a perſon in your employment, who has once forfeited *my protection*. But ſeeing that the tongues of evil-minded people may be very active in his repreſenting facts, and forging falſe and idle ſuppoſitions, with deſign to prejudice your character, and anſwer their own malicious purpoſes, I aſſure you, that the diſgrace into which your Vakeel has fallen, was not deſigned to be a ſlight or reflection on you, and that I am on the contrary, moſt tender of every thing wherein your honour or welfare are intereſted. It would be highly unreaſonable to make one perſon reſponſible for the faults of another; and this letter is a teſtimony to you, that my good opinion of you is by no means abated, nor the memory of your *good ſervices* to the Company effaced. To avoid ſuch diſagreeable accidents in future, I would adviſe you to ſelect from the number of your adherents, one who will hold his † maſter's honour in eſtimation, and *merit my countenance and favour*. When you have found ſuch a perſon, I can have no objection to receive him into *my protection*; and you will be careful in future how you truſt your good name in the hands of the loweſt and worſt of your ſervants.

---

* The haughty ſtile uſed here by his *European* to his *Aſiatic* Highneſs, is perhaps without parallel in the recorded intercourſes of *Potentates*. It is recommended to the Reader to conſider the ſacredneſs with which a reſident Miniſter is treated at every foreign Court. If the Repreſentative of the moſt inferior *German* Prince, at the Court of the head of the empire, was to be guilty of indiſcreet conduct, his Imperial Majeſty would undoubtedly refer the puniſhment of him to his own maſter, as of him ſatisfaction would be required by the offended Prince, ſhould he, on repreſentation made of the wrong done him, refuſe giving it in the due puniſhment of his ſervant. But it does not appear, in this caſe, that the Rajah *Bulwantſing* did conſider his Vakeel to have done wrong, from his interceding with Mr. *Verelſt* to reſtore him to favour.

† The Rajah *Bulwantſing* had not an older or a more faithful ſervant, nor one of higher rank, or in whom he more confided, than the *Brahmin, Maharage Miſſer*, the Ambaſſador whom Mr. *Verelſt* had diſgracefully turned out of *Calcutta*.

NUM. LXXXVII.

COPY of Letter from the Rajah Shetabroy *at* Patna, *to* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq; Received the 22d* Auguſt *1768.*

YOUR Excellency was pleaſed to ſignify in a prior letter, that Monſ. *Canonge* ſhould be allowed one month's reſpite to ſettle his old concerns, on condition, that he entered into no new engagements. Accordingly Rajah *Bulwantſing* was wrote to, by your ſervant, to this purpoſe. That Monſ. *Canonge* is returning to *Banáras* on the above terms, and is not to be interrupted in his buſineſs, till the expiration of one month; and that if he ſtays longer than a month, or commences new engagements, it is not to be permitted, but duly reported.

Now *Bulwantſing* writes your ſervant word, that Monſ. *Canonge*, after ſtaying a few days in *Banáras*, and going to *Mirzapoor* to ſell off his old concerns, has moved off to *Fyzabad* himſelf, and left his gomaſtahs behind. Seeing that theſe his gomaſtahs are commencing new engagements, and the limited term of one month is more than expired, your Excellency will write what is proper to Rajah *Bulwantſing*.

NUM. LXXXVIII.

COPY of a Letter from Thomas Rumbold, *Eſq; Chief at* Patna, *to the Preſident and Select Committee. Dated the 2d* September *1768; with a Letter incloſed, relative to the Diſturbances occaſioned by the military Guards ſtationed by Mr.* Verelſt, *to ſtop the Trade on the River* Dewah.

To the Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident and Governor, and the Gentlemen of the Select Committee, at *Fort William*.

GENTLEMEN,

ENSIGN *Wallen*, who was ordered to proceed to the *Dewah*, in conſequence of the ſatisfaction his behaviour had given you, and your directions to me, in your favour of the 14th *ult.* had ſome trifling complaints made againſt him, which I doubted the truth of and overlooked; but yeſterday a *Perſian* letter was ſent me by the Naib of the Fowzdar of *Shahabad*, ſigned by Mr. *Wallen*, of which the incloſed is a literal tranſlation: the original is in my poſſeſſion. *As ſuch practices are too frequent*, they cannot be ſufficiently diſcouraged: I have therefore directed that Mr. *Wallen* be relieved, and join his brigade, which I hope will meet your approbation.

I am, GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

Patna, the 23d Sept. 1768. (Signed) THOMAS RUMBOLD.

Tranſlation

Tranſlation of a Letter from Enſign Wallen *to* Meer Naſſer Ally, *Naib of* Noor al Huſſon Khawn, *Fowzdar of* Shahabad.

" From Enſign *Wallen*.

" AFTER a deſire of an interview, be it known that he is well and deſirous of your welfare. Five or ſeven deer, ten or fifteen hogs, twenty-five goats, and ten or fifteen kids are wanting: it is proper that you do me the favour of bringing them, and pay me a viſit at the ſame time. For this purpoſe, *Purvez* and *Mohunſing*, Hircarahs, are ſent.

Upon receipt of this letter, agreeably to what is directed, you will quickly come to my preſence. In obeying this be careful, and do not act contrary to what is ordered. Know, from what the Hircarahs will inform you, that if there is any delay, it will be properly rewarded. Look upon this as a ſtrict order."

" *Boudy Roy* and *Danſing Roy!*

" Know, it is proper, that having provided theſe things, you quickly return with the Hircarahs: make no delay. Eight annas each day are allowed for proviſions: give therefore one rupee to the two Hircarahs."

NUM. LXXXIX.

COPY of a Petition preſented by Mr. Gregore Cojamaul *and Mr.* Johannes Padre Rafael, *in* London, *to the Court of* Eaſt India *Directors. Dated the 12th* September 1769; *as exhibited before a Committee of the Honourable* * *Houſe of Commons.*

To the Honourable Court of Directors for the Affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies*.

The humble Petition of *Gregore Cojamaul* and *Johannes Padre Rafael*, *Armenian* Merchants, late of *Bengal*,

HUMBLY SHEWETH,

THAT your Petitioners, who are natives of *Iſpahan* in *Perſia*, have for many years reſided in *India*, particularly in the provinces annexed to *Bengal*, and in the dominions of the different Princes bordering upon thoſe provinces, where they have carried on, for themſelves and others, a very extenſive trade, always with the permiſſion and approbation of the different Princes in whoſe dominions your Petitioners reſided, always paying the duties exacted by ſuch Princes, and always chearfully ſubmitting themſelves to the laws of ſuch countries.

* See Journals, Vol. XXXIII. Page 930.

That it has ever been the cuſtom, from time immemorial, for *Greeks*, *Georgians*, *Turks*, *Perſians*, *Tartars*, *Caſhmeerians*, *Armenians*, and other nations, to reſort to and traffic in *India*, where the Country-Nabobs, ſenſible of the benefits ariſing from the reſort of foreign Merchants, and the increaſe of trade, have at all times encouraged ſuch perſons to the utmoſt of their power.

That beſides their own traffic, your Petitioners likewiſe, for about ſeven years laſt paſt, have been honoured with buſineſs upon commiſſion from ſundry *Engliſh* Gentlemen, ſeveral of whom are now in *England*.

That your Petitioners in ſuch tranſactions have ever acted to the ſatisfaction of their Conſtituents, and with credit to themſelves; having ever ſtudiouſly avoided interfering in any other than their own mercantile affairs; and as they have ever been well-wiſhers to the Honourable *Engliſh Eaſt India* Company, having never in the moſt diſtant manner acted contrary to the intereſts of that Company.

That your Petitioners were lately reſident in the dominions of the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah* and the Rajah *Bulwantſing*, who, to the great ſurprize of your Petitioners, received orders from your Preſidency of *Calcutta*, or *Fort William*, to baniſh your Petitioners out of their countries.

That thoſe Princes communicated the orders which they had received from your ſaid Preſidency to your Petitioners, who had the honour to be favoured with the friendſhip of the ſaid Princes, who propoſed various expedients to ſcreen your Petitioners from violence, as your petitioners can ſhew by authentic documents in their hands, to the ſatisfaction of this Honourable Court.

That the friendſhip of thoſe Princes having induced them to evade the immediate execution of ſuch tyrannical orders, for which they knew no cauſe, your Preſident Mr. *Verelſt* wrote again in repeated letters, and in the moſt peremptory terms, to have your Petitioners ſeized, impriſoned, and ſent down into the Company's provinces to *Patna* and *Murſhedabad*; and for fear of further delays or evaſions, orders were given to the immediate ſervants of the *Engliſh* Company, who were employed to ſeize and impriſon your Petitioners: as they are likewiſe ready to prove to the ſatisfaction of this Honourable Court, by authentic documents, and writings under hand and ſeal of the ſaid Company's ſervants.

That accordingly your Petitioners were ſeized in the moſt ſudden, cruel, and inhuman manner, and brought down to the Company's factories at *Patna* and *Murſhedabad*, being obliged to quit inſtantly all they were poſſeſſed of in that country to a very conſiderable amount, together with their books and papers, and the effects of many other perſons, with which they were intruſted, and for which they are amenable.

That during the confinement of your Petitioners, the relations of your Petitioners did deliver to your Preſident, Mr. *Harry Verelſt*, ſundry petitions, particularly * one of the 15th of *May* 1768, and † one of the 13th of *June* 1768, (which your Petitioners imagine ſtand recorded upon your *Calcutta* Conſultations) requeſting the releaſement of your Petitioners, and offering to give any ſuch ſecurity for money, or the appearance of your Petitioners, as might appear reaſonable to your ſaid Preſident and Council.

* Num. LXIX, Page 402. † Num. LXXVIII, Page 409.

That

That the ſaid petitions were paid no regard to, but your Petitioners were continued under confinement, your Petitioner *Gregore Cojamaul* having been confined from the 14th of *March* 1768, to the 23d of *May* 1768, being two months and nine days, and your Petitioner *Johannes Padre Rafael* from the 27th of *March* 1768, to the 28th of *Auguſt* 1768, being five months; during which time they were treated worſe than convicted felons; *Cogee Rafael* being firſt impriſoned in a horſe-ſtable, and afterwards both kept in cloſe confinement under a ſtrong guard of the Company's ſeapoys with fixed bayonets, who never ſuffered your Petitioners to ſtir out of their ſight.

That being at laſt releaſed from confinement, your Petitioners and their friends waited upon your Preſident, Mr. *Harry Verelſt*, not only to be acquainted what were the cauſes of his diſpleaſure, and why they had been confined, but requeſting leave to return up the country to ſecure their effects and outſtanding concerns, thereby to preſerve themſelves and families from ruin: but, to the misfortune of your Petitioners, all their applications were paid no regard to; nor could they ever obtain any ſatisfaction, or be acquainted why they had been thus capriciouſly impriſoned for ſo long a time, and then ſet at liberty, without being accuſed of even a fictitious miſdemeanor.

That, to the great aſtoniſhment of your Petitioners, upon their arrival in *Calcutta*, they were informed that your Governor, Mr. *Harry Verelſt*, and his Council, had been pleaſed to publiſh an edict, under date the 18th of *May* 1768, prohibiting all *Armenians*, *Portugueſe*, and their deſcendants, from reſiding or trading in any part out of the provinces of *Bengal*, *Bahar*, and *Oriſſa*, or attempting to tranſport any merchandize beyond thoſe provinces, under penalty of the utmoſt ſevere corporal puniſhment, and the confiſcation of ſuch merchandize; an atteſted notorial copy of which moſt extraordinary public edict is in the hands of your Petitioners for the inſpection of this Honourable Court.

That your Petitioners were hereby not only deprived, among others, of thoſe rights which were due to them as men from the law of nations, but were deprived of that freedom of trade which their nation had always enjoyed in the times of the worſt of the ancient Black Nabobs, and in particular were alſo deprived of all hopes of ever recovering thoſe effects from which they had been thus forcibly and capriciouſly taken.

That your Petitioners, who have been therefore neceſſitated, at a great expence, to come to *England* for juſtice, now appeal to the equity of this Honourable Court, requeſting that they will either indemnify your Petitioners for the great loſſes they ſuſtain, or that they will be pleaſed to order home, to anſwer for themſelves, the Preſident Mr. *Verelſt*, and ſuch of the Company's ſervants as to this Honourable Court may appear to have been the acting perſons in the oppreſſions complained of:

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, ſhall ever pray.

London, *Sept.* 12, 1769.

We are, GENTLEMEN,
Your moſt obedient ſervants,

(Signed) GREGORE COJAMAUL,
JOHANNES PADRE RAFAEL.

NUM.

NUM. XC.

EXTRACT of a Letter from Cogee Gabriel Johannes, *an* Armenian *Merchant at* Calcutta, *dated the* 2*d* December 1769, *to* Johannes Padre Rafael, *in* London; *giving an Account of what happened to the* Armenian *Merchant*, Wuſcan Eſtephan, *on his returning to his Habitation and Property at* Banáras.

"I WROTE you fully on the 6th *October* paſt. In the month of *July* Mr. *Wuſcan Eſtephan* had returned to *Banáras*, to look after his effects; where he was again ſeized by a party of ſoldiers, ſent by Capt. *Gabriel Harper*, and carried a priſoner to *Patna*. Afterwards Captain *Harper* ſent a party of ſeapoys, who, with their muſquets and bayonets, forcibly entered the houſe of Mr. *Eſtephan*, which they plundered of ſeveral things, and carried away two females of his family to Captain *Harper*. I waited upon Mr. *Cartier*, and acquainted him with the whole affair; and he was ſo kind as to give me a recommendatory letter to Mr. *Alexander*, Chief of *Patna*, in favour of Mr. *Eſtephan*: and Mr. *Alexander* has written a letter to Captain *Harper*. We are much obliged to Mr. *Cartier* on this occaſion."

NUM. XCI.

COPY of the 98*th Paragraph of a Letter from the Court of* Eaſt India *Directors to their Preſident and Council in* Bengal. *Dated* London, *the* 23*d* March 1770.

PAR. XCVIII. COJEE GREGORE COJAMAUL and *Cogee Johannes Padre Rafael*, *Armenian* Merchants, have preſented a memorial to us, complaining, that they had been ſeized, impriſoned, and ſent down from *Sujah al Dowlah* and *Bulwantſing*'s countries (where they reſided with the conſent of thoſe Princes) to *Patna* and *Murſhedabad*; and that they continued under confinement a long while, and ſuffered other hardſhips and indignities, to the great detriment of their affairs; and notwithſtanding they ſeveral times applied to your Preſident, to know the reaſons for ſuch ill treatment, that they might juſtify themſelves, yet they could never learn the cauſe, or procure any redreſs; and therefore have been obliged to come to *England*, in order to ſeek that juſtice they were denied in *Bengal:* and requeſting we would make good their loſſes, or order home Preſident *Verelſt*, and ſuch other ſervants as ſhall appear to have been the acting perſons in thoſe oppreſſions. We incloſe a copy of their memorial, and *expect a faithful relation of the whole affair, with your motives, that we may do them juſtice for any injuries it ſhall appear they have ſuſtained*; though we hope the allegations in their memorial are not well founded. *You ſhould have endeavoured to have accommodated this affair*

affair in Bengal, as their appearance here in a clamorous manner may prove prejudicial to our affairs, and is very unpleaſing.

(Signed) G. COLEBROOKE, BEN. BOOTH,
P. CUST, GEO. CUMING,
H. CRABB BOULTON, JOHN WOODHOUSE,
J. PURLING, WILLIAM JAMES,
FREDERICK PIGOU, HENRY FLETCHER,
JOHN HARRISON, GEORGE DEMPSTER,
RICHARD BOSANQUET, CHARLES BODDAM,
DANIEL WIER, W. G. FREEMAN,
WILLIAM SNELL, L. SULIVAN,
PETER DU CANE, Jun. ROBERT GREGORY.

NUM. XCII.

COPY of the XXIIId *and* XXIVth *Paragraphs of the general Letter from the Preſident* and Council in* Bengal *to the Court of* Eaſt India *Directors. Dated the* 2d April 1771; *in Juſtification of the Impriſonment of the four* Armenian *Merchants,* Gregore Cojamaul, Johannes Padre Rafael, Wuſcan Eſtephan, *and* Melcomb Philip.

OUR motives for the removal from the territories of *Sujah al Dowlah* and *Bulwantſing* of the *Armenians* who have preſented a memorial of their grievances to you in *England*, as well as the means employed to effect it, appear at large on the face of our proceedings, referred to in the † margin. Theſe perſons were diſcovered in *carrying on intrigues at the* ‡ *Court of* Sujah al Dowlah; and there was ſtrong ‖ PRESUMPTION, *that they were* the inſtruments of obtaining for Mr. *Bolts* copies of our Preſident's correſpondence with the Vizier. *Theſe circumſtances, not to mention the experience we before had of the intriguing ſpirit of the* Armenians *during the government of* Coſſim Ally Khawn, *gave us great reaſon to be alarmed at the influence they had thus aſſumed. Such ſurely were very unfit, nay dangerous men, to be* § *ſuffered about the Vizier's perſon*; eſpecially at a criſis when his actions afforded us but too much cauſe of miſtruſt: and we may add, that at this very time, notwithſtanding *an order in force prohibiting* the reſidence of gomaſtahs of *Engliſh* gentlemen in the ter-

* Meſſrs. *John Cartier, James Alexander, Samuel Middleton, William Alderſey, Charles Floyer, John Reed,* and *Joſeph Jekyll.*

† 10th *December* 1767. Country correſpondence 1768.

‡ Two of them had never been within an hundred miles of *Sujah al Dowlah*'s Court.

‖ An honeſt acknowledgment this, of grievouſly perſecuting and puniſhing people on the PRESUMPTION of miſconduct. But the aſſertion of their having been impriſoned and removed from their habitations, on a preſumption of having obtained copies of Mr. *Verelſt*'s correſpondence with *Sujah al Dowlah*, ſtands fully diſproved by the very records to which the Preſident and Council above refer the Directors. Mr. *Verelſt* firſt expreſſes his apprehenſions on this ſubject, in his letter to *Sujah al Dowlah*, of the 27th *March* 1768; (ſee Num. XXX, Page 371) whereas the Preſident and Council had recorded the *firſt* orders which the Preſident was pleaſed to communicate to them, for the baniſhment of the *Armenian* Merchants, on the 10th *December* 1767. See E, Page 352.

§ Read of, and admire, ye good people of *England*, the juſtice and policy of the *Bengal* Government at this period!

ritories

ritories of *Sujah al Dowlah* and *Bulwantſing*, or indeed any where * without the provinces, Mr. *Bolts* would, in defiance of this order, preſume to continue his agents, and that, as it ſhould ſeem, not merely to wind up his old concerns in trade, but to † *engage in new ones.* From theſe conſiderations we hope it will clearly appear to you, that there was an urgent neceſſity for their removal; and that our endeavours to effect it were INTIRELY POLITICAL, and not from a motive of reſentment, either againſt Mr. *Bolts* or the *Armenians* themſelves.

It is not the act itſelf, ſo much as the mode of executing it, that is objected to: yet IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO US, THAT OUR LATE PRESIDENT VERELST WAS THE IMMEDIATE INSTRUMENT of their removal, as has been inſinuated; but that *it was an act of the Princes themſelves*, IN COMPLIANCE WITH OUR REQUEST, and intirely *optional on their parts.* But admitting even that the order ſhould have come immediately from our Preſident, or that our ſeapoys had been employed, we preſume that we ſhould ſtand *fully juſtified before you, for ſuch an exertion of our authority*, againſt perſons who would not only ſet our orders at defiance, but were likewiſe buſied in *ſchemes and intrigues of the moſt dangerous tendency*, which might have *affected Government*, had not a ſtop been put to them by their removal.

NUM. XCIII.

COPY of the XXXIIId *and* XXXIVth *Paragraphs of a Letter from the Court of* Eaſt India ‡ *Directors to their Preſident and Council in* Bengal. *Dated* London, *the* 10*th* April 1771; *relative to the trading into the Dominions of the Nabob* Sujah al Dowlah.

PAR. XXXIII. "ANOTHER means to revive the drooping commerce of *Bengal* is, to eſtabliſh a free intercourſe with the more diſtant provinces and the territories of *Sujah al Dowlah.* And here we are led to remark, that as by the eighth article of our treaty with that Subahdar in 1765, it had been ſtipulated, that the Company ſhould have a trade duty-free throughout the whole of his dominions, *the annulling of that article, by a general prohibition of any further trade to his country, appears to have been equally unadviſed and unneceſſary.* This prohibition is the more extraordinary, as *we no-where find that* Sujah al Dowlah *had ever requeſted you ſo to do, or even intimated any complaint of the abuſe of that article*, but what was of a private nature, and might have been obviated by the authority of our Preſident and Council, without having recourſe to *a remedy ſo impolitic and pernicious, as de-*

* When the *Armenian* Merchants were impriſoned in the provinces of *Owd* and *Illahabad*, there did not exiſt any ſuch prohibitory orders, which (as hath been ſhown in Num. LXX, Page 404.) were firſt made on the 18th *May* 1768, while the Preſident and ſeveral Members of the Council continued their own agents in thoſe countries.

† The Writer entered into no new concerns in the territories of *Sujah al Dowlah*; but if he had, it would have been no buſineſs of the Preſident and Council of *Calcutta.*

‡ For the liſt of Directors for the year ending in *April* 1771, ſee A, Num. LI. Page 259.

priving the Company of the advantages which were to be expected from a * FREE TRADE TO HIS DOMINIONS.

PAR. XXXIV. "The miſconduct of our ſervants in this reſpect is aggravated by a conſequential loſs of 20 *per cent.* on the ſales of a great part of our exports; and ſo far are they from having any plea of *miſconſtruction of our orders* of the 17th *March* 1766, that they were then expreſsly directed to make the extenſion of the ſale of woolens and *European* goods the principal object of the eighth article of the treaty. We therefore hereby require you *to revoke the prohibition which has been iſſued, and to open and extend, to the utmoſt of your power, that commerce* to which we were intitled by the ſtipulation in 1765, and which has been renewed and confirmed to us by the treaty of 1768."

NUM. XCIV.

COPY of a Petition preſented by Mr. Gregore Cojamaul, *on the* 28*th* February 1772, *to the Honourable the Commons of* Great Britain, *in Parliament aſſembled; which was examined into and fully proved before the Select Committee.*

To the Honourable the Commons of *Great Britain* in Parliament aſſembled.

The humble Petition of *Gregore Cojamaul*, late of *Bengal*, in the *Eaſt Indies*, on behalf of himſelf and others,

SHEWETH,

THAT your Petitioner, who is an *Armenian*, Chriſtian, and Native of *Iſpahan* in *Perſia*, has for many years reſided in *India* as a Merchant, particularly in the provinces of *Bengal* and it's dependencies, where thoſe of his nation have ever been allowed to carry on trade, according to the ancient uſages of thoſe countries, and even were indulged with certain privileges in that reſpect.

That your Petitioner, who has ever ſtrictly conformed himſelf to the uſages of thoſe reſpective countries, has, with many others of his nation, of late been greatly impeded in their buſineſs as Merchants, by the moſt cruel, deſtructive, and injurious regulations, and grievouſly oppreſſed by long and cruel impriſonments, and otherwiſe, by the nominal Nabobs, and other ſervants of the *Engliſh Eaſt India* Company, in *Bengal*, notwithſtanding your Petitioner never in any degree injured the ſaid Company, nor was ever guilty of any breach of the laws either of *India* or this nation; to the known juſtice of which laſt he has already applied for ſatisfaction for the great loſſes and injuries he has ſuſtained.

* This letter from the Directors is dated but eight days later than that of the preceding Number of this Appendix, from the Preſident and Council at *Calcutta* to them; and thereon it may be remarked, that their reſpective opinions, relative to the policy concerning inland-trade, were then diametrically oppoſite to each other. We may therefore conclude, that right information, or experience, had convinced the Directors of this important truth, that all the ancient proſperity of *Hindoſtan* did entirely depend on the freedom of dealings, under ſuch reſtrictions only as were neceſſary to prevent frauds.

That when your Petitioner and others have been injured and oppreſſed by ſuch impriſonments within the diſtricts to which his Majeſty's moſt gracious Charter of Juſtice granted to the ſaid Company is not allowed to extend, they have applied to the ſaid nominal Nabobs of *Bengal* for juſtice, who have referred them and your petitioner to the Preſident or Secret Committees of *Calcutta* in *Bengal*, alledging ſuch impriſonments to have been effected by their orders: and when, on the part of your petitioner and ſuch other perſons, application has been made for juſtice at *Calcutta*, to the ſaid Company's Governor and Preſident of the Secret Committees, they have been referred back to the ſaid Nabobs; and in this grievous ſituation, without ever being able to know of what crime he was accuſed, your petitioner, by ſuch evaſions, has been ruined, and left without any other remedy than the precarious redreſs which he may poſſibly obtain from the Courts of Law in this country, under all the diſadvantages of ſeeking juſtice in a foreign land, at ſuch a diſtance from the ſcene of action, without friends or money.

That your petitioner, upon his arrival in *England*, was adviſed to apply to the Directors of the *Eaſt India* Company, for redreſs, in conſequence of the injuries he had ſuſtained by their ſervants abroad; which your petitioner accordingly did, in the moſt humble manner, but has never yet been able to obtain any ſatisfactory anſwer from that Honourable Board.

That your petitioner is about to return to his family and buſineſs in *Bengal*, where, under the preſent Double-Government, he is apprehenſive his perſon, property, and family, as well as the reſt of his nation, will be expoſed to greater hardſhips than before, on account of his having applied for juſtice in *England*, unleſs protected by ſome effectual regulations of Government by the *Britiſh* legiſlature.

Your petitioner therefore humbly prays this Honourable Houſe to take this caſe into conſideration, and grant ſuch relief in the premiſes, with reſpect to the future ſecurity of perſons and property in *Bengal*, as to the wiſdom of this Honourable Houſe ſhall ſeem meet.

(Signed) GREGORE COJAMAUL.

NUM. XCV.

COPY of a Letter from Mr. Gregore Cojamaul *to the Honourable Court of* Eaſt India *Directors. Dated* London, *the* 29*th* February 1772.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies*.

Honourable Sirs,

BEING acquainted, by Governor *Johnſtone*, that he was informed, by one of the Directors of the *Eaſt India* Company, upon preſenting my petition to Parliament, that the Court of Directors had officially tranſmitted the memorial I delivered to them, of the 12th *September* 1769, to their Preſident and Council at *Bengal*; and that they had received a full and explicit anſwer from

thence, with ſpecific charges, by the laſt ſhips: in conſequence of ſuch information, I now make my moſt humble applications to the Court, that they will be pleaſed to furniſh me with a copy or copies of ſuch anſwer and charges; which I hope in common juſtice cannot be denied me; as I muſt ever preſume the Directors are equally inclined to blame their ſervants when culpable, as to defend them when innocent: and that the protection of the inhabitants of *Bengal* is a principal part of their conſiderations.

I am, with great reſpect,
Honourable Sirs,
Your moſt obedient, humble,
and devoted ſervant,
(Signed) GREGORE COJAMAUL.

London,
29*th February* 1772.

NUM. XCVI.

COPY of a Letter from Mr. Secretary Michell, *with the Proceedings of the Court of* East India *Directors, on the* 11*th* March 1772, *in Anſwer to Mr.* Gregore Cojamaul's *Letter of the* 29*th* February 1772.

Mr. *Gregore Cojamaul.*

SIR,

THE Court of Directors of the *Eaſt India* Company having conſidered of the letter you addreſſed them, dated the 29th of laſt month; by their ſpecial command, the incloſed anſwer to the ſame is tranſmitted to you by,

SIR,
Your moſt obedient ſervant,
(Signed) P. MICHELL, Secretary.

Eaſt India Houſe,
11*th March* 1772.

At a Court of * Directors of the United *Eaſt India* Company held on *Wedneſday* the 11th *March* 1772.

The Court, on Conſideration of a Letter from *Gregore Cojamaul*,

Ordered, That the following anſwer be given to the ſame, and tranſmitted to him accordingly:

"OUR general letter in anſwer to what we wrote our Governor and Council on the ſubject of the *Armenian*'s petition, laid before the Court of Directors, in

* The direction, at this period, conſiſted of the following gentlemen: Sir *George Colebrooke*, Baronet, Chairman, *Lawrence Sulivan*, Eſq; Deputy, Sir *James Cockburn*, Baronet, *Charles Boddam*, *Richard Boſanquet*, *Benjamin Booth*, *Henry Crabb Boulton*, *George Cuming*, *George Dempſter*, *William Devaynes*, *Thomas Dethick*, *Peter Du Cane* jun. *Henry Fletcher*, *Robert Gregory*, *Joſeph Hurlock*, *Peter Laſcelles*, *John Manſhip*, *John Michie*, *John Roberts*, *Thomas Rumbold*, *Henry Savage*, *Joſhua Smith*, *George Tatem*, and *Edward Wheler*, Eſquires.

1769, *contains many matters very* * *improper to be communicated* on the preſent application, made by the *Armenian Gregore Cajamaul*; but ſo much as materially concerns the juſtification of our Preſidency, with reſpect to thoſe perſons, is to this effect.——They refer to the country-correſpondence, tranſmitted to us in 1768; and to their proceedings in *December* 1767, for the particulars of this matter; that theſe *Armenians* were diſcovered in carrying on intrigues at the Court of *Sujah al Dowlah*; and that there was ſtrong preſumption, that they were the inſtruments of obtaining for Mr. *Bolts* copies of our Preſident's correſpondence with the † *Vizier*; not to mention the experience they before had of the intriguing ſpirit of the *Armenians* during the Government of *Coſſim Ally Khawn*.

That at this very time, notwithſtanding an ‡ order in force, prohibiting the reſidence of Gomaſtahs of *Engliſh* gentlemen in the territories of *Sujah al Dowlah* and *Bulwantſing*, or indeed any where without the provinces, Mr. *Bolts*, in defiance of this order, would preſume to continue his agents; and that, as it ſhould ſeem, not merely to wind up his old concerns in trade, but to engage in new ones. From theſe conſiderations, they hope it will clearly appear, their removal did not proceed from a motive of reſentment either againſt Mr. *Bolts* or the *Armenians* themſelves.

That it does not appear to the Council that the late Preſident *Verelſt* was the immediate inſtrument of their removal, as had been inſinuated, but that it was an act of the Princes themſelves, and entirely § optional on their parts; but admitting even that the order ſhould have come immediately from the Preſident, or that the Company's ſeapoys had been employed, they preſume they ſhould ſtand fully ‖ juſtified for ſuch an exertion of authority againſt perſons who not only ſet theſe ¶ orders at defiance, but were likewiſe buſied in ſchemes and intrigues of the moſt dangerous tendency to Government."

* See Num. XCII. Page 423. The Reader will agree with the Directors, upon the impropriety of the general letter here referred to.

† The Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah*.

‡ There was no ſuch order exiſting, as hath been ſhewn in the preceding Numbers.

§ Several preceding Numbers of this Appendix under the Letter E, which were before the Directors when they held this Court on the 11th *March* 1772, fully diſprove this aſſertion.

‖ Neither by the conſtitutional laws of *England* or *Hindoſtan*, or by the general laws of Nature, or of Nations; or indeed upon any principle of moral or political juſtice: and much leſs from inſidious charges againſt them, of imputed guilt, not attempted to be proved.

¶ Mere orders are the acts of tyrants. The *Armenians* lived there under the protection of the laws of *Hindoſtan*; and the Company, much leſs their ſervants, could have no juſt pretence for preſcribing laws to *Aſiatics*, without the boundaries of their aſſumed dominions. But the real truth, as hath been ſhewn, was, that neither *Sujah al Dowlah* or the Rajah *Bulwantſing* made any complaints of thoſe *Armenians*; but, on the contrary, eſteemed and favoured them. The Agents, who offended them, were thoſe of the Company's chief ſervants, who were themſelves monopolizing trade in the dominions of thoſe Princes, and depriving them of their duties thereon.

NUM. XCVII.

COPY of the Affidavit of John Skirrow, *Gentleman, made on the* 20*th* May 1773, *in a Cauſe in the Court of Common Pleas, between* Wuſcan Eſtephan, *Eſq; Plaintiff, and* Harry Verelſt *and* Richard Smith, *Eſquires, Defendants.*

In the Common Pleas. Between *Wuſcan Eſtephan*, Plaintiff,
and
Harry Verelſt, Eſq; and
Richard Smith, Eſq; Defendants.

JOHN SKIRROW of *Lincoln's Inn*, in the county of *Middleſex*, gentleman; attorney for the defendants in this cauſe, maketh oath, and ſaith, That the declaration in this cauſe was delivered, with notice to plead, within the firſt four days of laſt *Trinity* term; and that the defendants pleaded thereto, within the ſaid four days, the general iſſue, NOT GUILTY; ſince which, no proceedings have been in this cauſe, to this deponent's knowledge, until *Saturday* laſt, the fifteenth inſtant; when the plaintiff's attorney delivered an iſſue, with notice of trial for the ſittings after this term. And this deponent farther ſaith, That this action is brought for an aſſault and impriſonment, ſuppoſed to be made on the plaintiff in the *Eaſt Indies*: and that he apprehends and believes the defendants cannot be properly prepared for trial at the ſittings after this preſent term, it being neceſſary, in this deponent's judgment and belief, to make ſearch and examination into the books and records of the *Eaſt India* Company, which, as this deponent apprehends, will require a great deal of time, and cannot be done with due attention, ſo as to be prepared for trial at the ſaid ſittings.

(Signed) JOHN SKIRROW.

Sworn at my Chambers in *Serjeant's Inn*, the 20th Day of *May* 1773,
Before (Signed) H. GOULD.

NUM. XCVIII.

COPY of the Affidavit of Richard Smith, *Eſq; made on the* 20*th* May 1773, *in the Court of Common Pleas, in a Cauſe between* Wuſcan Eſtephan, *Eſq: Plaintiff, and* Harry Verelſt *and* Richard Smith, *Eſquires, Defendants.*

In the Common Pleas. Between *Wuſcan Eſtephan*, Plaintiff,
and
Harry Verelſt, Eſq; and
Richard Smith, Eſq; Defendants.

RICHARD SMITH of *Harley Street*, in the Pariſh of *St. Mary le Bon*, in the County of *Middleſex*, Eſq; one of the defendants above named maketh oath, That *Gabriel Harper*, Eſq; who is now abroad, is, as this depo-

nent is adviſed and verily believes, a moſt material witneſs for this deponent; and without whoſe teſtimony, this deponent cannot, as he is adviſed and verily believes, ſafely proceed to the trial of this cauſe. And this deponent farther ſaith, That by letters received by this deponent, from the ſaid *Gabriel Harper*, this deponent has great reaſon to believe the ſaid *Gabriel Harper* will return to *England* in the courſe of the enſuing ſeaſon for return of ſhips from *India*.

(Signed) RICHARD SMITH.

Sworn at my Chambers in *Serjeant's Inn*, the 20th Day of *May* 1773,
Before (Signed) H. GOULD.

NUM. XCIX.

COPY of the Affidavit of Harry Verelſt, *Eſq; in the Court of Exchequer, made on the 25th* June 1773, *upon a Bill filed by him in that Court againſt* Wuſcan Eſtephan, *Eſq, praying an Injunction to ſtop the Proceedings in an Action brought againſt him in the Common Pleas by* Eſtephan, *to which he had pleaded the General Iſſue,* Not guilty: *Becauſe he could not make* "a full and proper "Defence" *on the Trial of the ſaid Action without the Teſtimony of Witneſſes in* India.

In the Exchequer. *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Plaintiff,
and
Wuſcan Eſtephan, Defendant.

HARRY VERELST, late of *Bengal*, in the *Eaſt Indies*, but now of *St. James's Squdre*, in the county of *Middleſex*, Eſq; the above named Plaintiff, maketh oath, That his bill of complaint in this cauſe is not filed with a frivolous or vexatious intent, or merely to delay the defendant's trial at law, but for a diſcovery of the ſeveral matters therein contained or alleged, and to authenticate the ſeveral public acts, orders, and reſolutions particularly mentioned in his ſaid bill, by an examination of many of the witneſſes in his ſaid bill particularly named, and other perſons now reſident in the *Eaſt Indies*, as this deponent believes, under one or more commiſſion or commiſſions for that purpoſe, to be iſſued out of and to be returned into this honourable court. And this deponent farther ſaith, That the action at law brought by the defendant againſt this deponent, and for the ſtay of which he has by his bill prayed the injunction of this honourable court, is brought, as he verily believes, for matters ſuppoſed to be done by him in the *Eaſt Indies*, acting in his public capacity, as Governor or Preſident of the council of *Fort William* in *Bengal*, in the *Eaſt Indies*, under the *Eaſt India* Company: and that the damages laid in the declaration are twenty thouſand pounds, and that many material facts and circumſtances for this deponent's defence, on the trial of the ſaid action, are, as this deponent believes, only in the knowledge of ſome of the perſons mentioned in his bill, who reſide in the *Eaſt Indies*; and ſeveral of

of them are natives of *India*, and whoſe teſtimony he cannot have the benefit of without a commiſſion for that purpoſe to the *Eaſt Indies*. And this deponent farther ſaith, That if ſuch commiſſion was granted, *he verily believes he ſhould be able to have the depoſitions taken of many of the perſons named in his bill*, and particularly of the ſeveral Princes of the country in amity and alliance with the ſaid *Eaſt India* Company, and in whoſe territories ſeveral of the ſaid facts and circumſtances happened, or were done, or aroſe; and with whom this deponent, as Governor and Preſident of the ſaid council, correſponded and had intercourſe, and other, their miniſters, envoys, and ſervants, reſpecting the matters for which the ſaid action at law hath been brought againſt this deponent by the ſaid defendant: the cauſe of which action (if any there is) intirely aroſe, as this deponent believes, in the *Eaſt Indies*. And this deponent farther ſaith, That without the examination of many of the perſons named in his ſaid bill, who are now in *India*, and ſome of whom are never likely to come to *England*, being natives of that country, and others of whom are likely to remain in *India* for a conſiderable time, and other perſons in *India*, not named in the bill, who are well acquainted with the ſeveral facts and circumſtances mentioned in this deponent's bill, he is adviſed, and verily believes he cannot make a full and proper defence, on the trial of the ſaid action.

(Signed) HARRY VERELST.

Sworn in Court, the 25th Day of *June* 1773.

NUM. C.

COPY of a Writ of Injunction, iſſued by the Court of Exchequer, to ſtay Proceedings in the Action brought in the Common Pleas, by Wuſcan Eſtephan, *Eſq; againſt* Harry Verelſt *and* Richard Smith, *Eſquires. Dated the 8th* July 1773.

GEORGE the Third, by the grace of God, of *Great Britain*, *France*, and *Ireland*, King, Defender of the Faith, and ſo forth: To *Wuſcan Eſtephan*, and all, and ſingular your counſellors, attornies, and ſolicitors, and every one of you, greeting. For ſome certain reaſons to the Barons of our Exchequer at *Weſtminſter*, hereunto moving, we command, and ſtrictly charge you, and every one of you, that immediately on receipt of this our writ or notice hereof, you do not proſecute any action, bill, or complaint againſt *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; by you the aforeſaid *Wuſcan Eſtephan* lately begun or proſecuted, or hereafter to be begun or proſecuted at common law, touching or any ways concerning any the matters or things contained in a certain Bill lately exhibited by the aforeſaid *Harry Verelſt*, in our aforeſaid Court of Exchequer, againſt you, the aforeſaid *Wuſcan Eſtephan*; but that you, and every of you, wholly deſiſt from any ſuch actions as aforeſaid, and all manner of proceedings thereon, until you the aforeſaid *Wuſcan Eſtephan* ſhall have fully anſwered the ſaid Bill, and it ſhall be otherwiſe ordered by the ſaid Court: and this you are by no means to fail of, under the penalty of one hundred pounds; which, if you neglect this our precept, we ſhall cauſe to be levied on your goods and chattels,

tels, lands and tenements for our uſe. Witneſs Sir *Sidney Stafford*, Knight, the eighth day of *July*, in the thirteenth year of our reign, by order of court, made the ſame day, and by the ſame Barons.

(Signed) MASHAM.

NUM. CI.

COPY of an Order of the Court of Exchequer, for the Examination of Witneſſes in India, *in the Cauſes between* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq*; *and* Gregore Cojamaul *and* Johannes Padre Rafael. *Dated the* 13*th* July 1773.

Tueſday, the 13th Day of *July* 1773,

Between *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Plaintiff,

and

Gregore Cojamaul, Defendant,

By Bill.

UPON the motion of Mr. *Hett*, of council for the plaintiff, informing the Court, that the ſaid plaintiff had filed a replication to the defendant's anſwer, put in to the ſaid plaintiff's Bill, and the defendant had rejoined thereto, and that the plaintiff had many material witneſſes to examine on his behalf, many of whom reſided abroad, in the *Eaſt Indies*, and were natives of *India*; and that he could not ſafely proceed to make his defence on a trial of the action brought againſt him by the defendant in the Court of Common Pleas, without the examination of many witneſſes mentioned in his ſaid Bill, and ſeveral other perſons now reſident in the *Eaſt Indies*; he therefore prayed, that the ſaid plaintiff might be at liberty to iſſue out one or more commiſſion or commiſſions, under the ſeal of this Court, for the examination of witneſſes in the *Eaſt Indies*; and that the ſaid defendant might exchange, and ſtrike Commiſſioners names in a month, and that each party might name eight perſons as Commiſſioners, whereout the oppoſite party might ſtrike four, and that the remaining eight might ſtand as Commiſſioners in the commiſſion or commiſſions; and that the ſame might be made returnable without delay. And, that if the defendant ſhall join in ſuch commiſſion or commiſſions, he might be at liberty to take out duplicate or duplicates thereof, and to execute the ſame in caſe the plaintiff ſhall neglect to execute his commiſſion or commiſſions. And, that if the defendant ſhall make default in joining and ſtriking Commiſſioners names within the time aforeſaid, that the plaintiff might be at liberty to ſue out a commiſſion or commiſſions, directed to his own Commiſſioners. And upon reading the affidavit of *James Walker*, of the ſervice of the notice of this motion, on Mr. *Martin*, the ſaid defendant's clerk in Court, and alſo an affidavit of the ſaid plaintiff, it is ordered by the Court, that the plaintiff be at liberty to take out one or more commiſſions for the examination of witneſſes to be executed in the *Eaſt Indies*: And that the defendant do exchange

change and ſtrike Commiſſioners names with the plaintiff's clerk in Court, in a month, and that each ſide be at liberty to name eight Commiſſioners, whereof four are to be ſtruck out by the oppoſite ſide, and that the ſaid commiſſion or commiſſions be made returnable without delay. And in caſe the defendant ſhall join in the ſaid commiſſion or commiſſions, he is to be at liberty to take out a duplicate or duplicates thereof, and to execute the ſame, in caſe the plaintiff ſhall not proceed to execute his commiſſion or commiſſions within two months after the arrival thereof in the *Eaſt Indies*: but in caſe the defendant ſhall make default in exchanging and ſtriking Commiſſioners names with the plaintiff's clerk in Court, within the time aforeſaid, then the plaintiff is to be at liberty to ſue out ſuch commiſſion or commiſſions, directed to his own Commiſſioners only. And that a clauſe be inſerted in ſuch commiſſion or commiſſions for the Commiſſioners to be impowered to ſwear an interpreter, well and faithfully to interpret the oath and interrogatories to be exhibited to ſuch of the witneſſes who ſhall be examined on the ſaid commiſſion or commiſſions, as ſhall not underſtand the *Engliſh* language; and alſo to interpret the depoſitions to the ſaid interrogatories if it ſhall be neceſſary. And that the word "corporal" and the words "upon the holy Goſpels of God" be left out of ſuch commiſſions, and that, inſtead of thoſe latter words, the words "in the moſt ſolemn manner uſed in that country" be inſerted: and that the ſaid Commiſſioners do certify to this Court, on the return of the ſaid commiſſion or commiſſions, in which manner the oath ſhall be adminiſtered to each and every of the witneſſes who ſhall be examined under and by virtue of the ſaid commiſſion or commiſſions; and of what religion each and every of the ſaid witneſſes reſpectively is or are.

Same day,
Between *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Plaintiff,
and
Johannes Padre Rãfael, Defendant,
By Bill,
The ſame order, *mutatis mutandis*.

LETTER F.

CONTAINING Copies of public Letters, Memorials, and Proteſts, relative to the Trade carried on, and the Perſecutions ſuffered by *William Bolts*, in *Bengal*; and of the official Proceedings of the ruling Servants of the Company, in their Capacities of Preſident and Council, Select Committees, or Juſtices of *Calcutta*; from the 9th of *February* 1767, until they arbitrarily deprived him of his Office of a Judge in the Mayor's Court, in *September* 1768, and forcibly ſent him a Priſoner to *England*: together with Extracts of Letters which paſſed to and from the *Eaſt India* Directors on the ſame Subjects.

NUM. I.

COPY of a * *Letter from* William Bolts *to the Preſident and Council. Dated* Calcutta, *the 9th* February 1767.

To the Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident, *&c.* Members of the Select Committee.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

I HAVE ſeveral very conſiderable outſtanding balances within the provinces now under the management of the honourable Company, the recovery of which, without the favourable interpoſition of your authority over the *country-government*, being altogether impoſſible, and the late regulations of the honourable board making my preſent application neceſſary, I hereby requeſt to be favoured with your aſſiſtance; and that you will be pleaſed to grant me perwânahs, upon the different zemindars, *&c.* of the diſtricts where they lay, directing them to ſummon the aſſamies to their *Cutcherries*, to confront them with my gomaſtahs, and after proof of the juſtice of the demands, to enforce the payment. The ſums, as *per* particular liſts are, *viz.*

* See *Verelſt*'s Appendix, page 194.

In

In the districts of *Purnea*,	C. R.	10939 . 13 . 6
Goragaut Sheebgunge,		6029 . 12 . 6
Rungpore,		1777 . 9 . 6
Dinagepore,		2320 . 10 . 6
Shawpore, *Purg. Sontose*, *Krisndeb*, and *Govindebroy*,		151 . 9 . 6
Current rupees,		21219 . 7 . 6

The following are balances due from the zemindars themselves, of sundry districts much nearer at hand; but being balances arising upon accounts of mercantile transactions, which may be liable to altercation; and being more immediately under the inspection of your honourable board, I should be glad you would be pleased to appoint, in *Calcutta*, some person, or persons, either *Europeans*, or black-merchants, versed in the transactions of the country, to examine into the justice of the demands, which are as follows:

Due from the zemindar of *Jessor*, *Nilcanto Roy*,	Sicca R.	13029 . 12 . 0
Ditto——————of *Tumlook*, to the 13th *Nov.* past,		2501 . 10 . 6
Ditto——————of *Soojahmootah*, ditto		10938 . 7 . 0
Ditto——————Fowzdar of *Ragemahl*,	A. R.	636 . 4 . 0
Rupees		27106 . 1 . 6

I shall very readily abide by the decision of the persons you may be pleased to appoint.

After the letter which the late honourable President and Council have been pleased to write me, relative to my commercial affairs, it may not, on this occasion, be improper to say something on the subject; that you, gentlemen, may be able to judge what an arduous, nay I may say an impossible task has been imposed upon me. I have, by sea and land, of my own and other peoples, about eight lacks of rupees now out, and actually employed in lawful trade; which noways interferes with any part of the honourable Company's investment. Amongst this, there is above 160,000 rupees of woollens, *&c.* goods which I bought at the Company's last outcry, and which were only dispatched up the country about two months ago.

I am most earnestly desirous of quitting *India* as soon as I possibly can, consistent with the many duties which bind me. In the mean time, to comply as nearly as possible with what seems to me to be the intention of the order of the honourable board, I assure you, gentlemen, upon my honour, that *I have not lately, and shall not enter into any new inland-concerns*; and that I shall hold none but such as I have been already some time engaged in, and which I am obliged to prosecute to bring in outstanding balances. Farther, I will engage, under any penalty, that no part of my trade shall, *within the three Subahs*, in any shape interfere with any part of the honourable Company's investment.

I further beg leave to assure you, gentlemen, that I shall never be guilty of any infringement of the laws of *Great Britain*, or the bye-laws of the honourable Company, *where their jurisdiction extends*; *and that out of their jurisdiction I shall freely submit to the customs and laws of the country*. In this situation, I hope, I shall not fail of giving satisfaction, and shall chearfully submit to whatever you, gentlemen, may esteem just. I require only an equitable allowance of time to be indulged with those privileges which have ever been allowed, not only to gentlemen who have resigned, but to those who have been dismissed from the service.

I have the honour to be, with great respect,
Honourable Sir and Sirs,
Your most obedient
humble servant,

Calcutta,
the 9th Feb. 1767. (Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

NUM. II.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Select Committee held at Calcutta, *on the 3d of* March 1767.

At a Select Committee held the 3d of *March* 1767.

MR. BOLTS sending in a letter to the Committee, requesting our assistance in collecting several balances due to him in different parts of the provinces,

Agreed, We recommend to the President to grant Mr. *Bolts* perwânahs upon the zemindars in the manner he desires. Also, that the Court of *Cutcherry* be directed to examine into his claim on the zemindars, as specified in his letter; but that we strictly enjoin him to enter upon no fresh concerns, as the board will expect implicit obedience to the orders he has already received, although *they dispense with the immediate execution*, in consideration of the particular situation of his affairs.

Ordered, That the extracts from Mr. *Droz*'s letters be entered in the letter book.

(Signed) H. VERELST,
RICHARD SMITH,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
ALEX. CAMPBELL.

NUM,

NUM. III.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Select Committee held at Calcutta, *on the* 10*th of* March 1767.

At a Select Committee held the 10th of *March* 1767.

ON a reviſal of the laſt proceedings; the Committee agreed, that the Court of *Cutcherry* cannot with propriety take cognizance of thoſe claims of Mr. *Bolts* on zemindars who reſide in parts where the authority of the court does not extend,

Agreed, therefore, That the Preſident ſhall grant perwânahs on the courts of thoſe diſtricts where the demands are made, and that all his demands within the Company's juriſdiction ſhall be examined and adjuſted by the Collector General.

(Signed) HARRY VERELST,
JOHN CARTIER,
RICHARD SMITH,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
ALEX. CAMPBELL.

"To Mr. *William Bolts*.

SIR,

I AM directed by the honourable Preſident, and the members of the Select Committee, to acquaint you, that your ſeveral requeſts will be granted in the following manner, *viz.*

Perwânahs will be given by the Preſident on the zemindars, to call the aſſamies to an account, and adjuſt your demands.

Your claims within the honourable Company's juriſdiction will be ſettled by the Collector General. For thoſe in other parts of the provinces, the Preſident will grant perwânahs to the courts of the ſeveral diſtricts where the demands are made, from which you may *appeal to* THE MINISTERS AND RESIDENT at the *Durbar*.

In conſideration of your particular circumſtances, the Committee *do not require immediate obedience to the orders you lately received to proceed to* Europe, *but they ſtrictly enjoin you to enter upon no freſh concerns in trade*.

I am, SIR,
Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,
(Signed) ALEX. CAMPBELL.
Sec. Select Committee."

Calcutta,
the 10*th March* 1767.

NUM.

NUM. IV.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Select Committee held at Calcutta, *on the 24th of* March 1767.

Fort William, the 24th March 1767.

At a Select Committee, preſent,

The Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident,
John Cartier,
Colonel *Smith*,
Claud Ruſſell, and
Alexander Campbell, Eſquires.

READ a letter from Meſſrs. *Bolts* and *Petrie* to the Governor and Council, referred to the Committee, relative to certain contracts for ſalt and balances of money due to Mr. *John Johnſtone*, for recovering which his attornies ſolicit the aſſiſtance of the board.

Agreed, The above letter be tranſmitted to the Reſident at the *Durbar*, and that Mr. *Sykes* be deſired to examine and adjuſt the claims.

EXTRACT from the Select Committee's letter to the Reſident at the *Durbar*.
Dated *March* 24th 1767.

"WE are to requeſt you will take cognizance of the incloſed paper of complaint from the attornies of Mr. *Johnſtone*.——Upon this ſubject we ſhall offer one remark to your attention. Mr. *Johnſtone* appears to have advanced five hundred rupees upon the contract, to which ſum we think he has an undoubted claim on the eſtate of the deceaſed; but as to the contract itſelf, we ſhould *apprehend it is rendered void by the ſame act of government* which veſts the Committee of Trade with the excluſive privilege of manufacturing ſalt. It would therefore be highly unreaſonable, and oppreſſive, to inſiſt on the performance of engagements which are poſitively prohibited by THE * GOVERNMENT, and which would ſubject THE CONTRACTOR to the penalty of *confiſcation of the goods*, and other *puniſhments*."

* The reader will pleaſe to remember, that THE LAW OF THE GOVERNMENT here alluded to, was no other than the will of this Select Committee.

NUM. V.

COPY of a Letter from Meſſrs. Playdell, Middleton, *and* Bolts, *to the Preſident and Council at* Calcutta. *Dated the 27th of* March 1767.

To the Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident, *&c.* Council at *Fort William.*

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

HEREWITH we take the liberty of laying before you our account with the honourable Company, for the *Khallaries* (ſalt-pans) rented and worked by us, in the year 1765, in the pergunnahs of *Hatthiaghur*, *Medunmull*, and *Ekbarpore*; the balance due to us thereon being, Sicca rupees, 4531. 10. 9. for the payment of which we requeſt an order upon the treaſury.

You will pleaſe to obſerve, that as the Collector has charged us only 60 Arcot rupees *per* 100 maunds of ſalt, for the ſmall quantity which we bought of the Company, we have only charged that price upon the balances; yet, at the ſame time, we muſt beg leave to remark, that, upon an occaſion exactly ſimilar, the Committee of Lands were pleaſed to allow Mr. *Domingos de Rozario*, &c. for their balances, at the rate of 85 and 90 rupees *per* 100 maunds of ſalt.

We are, with great reſpect,
Honourable Sir and Sirs,
Your moſt obedient
humble ſervants,

Calcutta, the 27th March 1767.

(Signed) CHARLES STAFFORD PLAYDELL,
SAMUEL MIDDLETON,
WILLIAM BOLTS.

NUM. VI.

COPY of a Letter from Mr. Simeon Droz, *Secretary to the Preſident and Council, to* William Bolts. *Dated the 14th* April 1767.

To Mr. *William Bolts.*

SIR,

MR. SAGE, the late Reſident at *Banáras*, having informed the board, that when he tendered you the accompanying bill, on account of the honourable Company, you refuſed to diſcharge it; I am, in conſequence

* In ſome of the pergunnahs, the Company, in the capacity of zemindar of the lands, retain a few ſalt-pans, which are worked, and the ſalt produced in them, publicly ſold, on their account.

thereof, ordered by the honourable Preſident and Council, to demand of you the payment of the ſame, together with the intereſt that is due thereon, from the 11th *December* laſt (at the rate of eight *per cent. per annum*) being the day on which Mr. *Sage* firſt tendered it to you.

I am, SIR,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

Fort William,
the 14th April 1767.

(Signed) SIMEON DROZ. Sec.

NUM. VII.

COPY of a Letter from Mr. Simeon Droz, *Secretary to the Preſident and Council at* Calcutta, *to* William Bolts. *Dated the 15th April* 1767.

To Mr. *William Bolts.*

SIR,

I HAVE received your note, and am to acquaint you in anſwer, that the board having already taken their reſolution regarding the bill for the Company's rice, and given me poſitive orders to demand the amount from you, with intereſt as before-mentioned, I now return you the bill for that purpoſe, and deſire you will order immediate payment of the ſame.

I am, SIR,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

Fort William,
the 15th April 1767.

(Signed) SIMEON DROZ. Sec.

NUM. VIII.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to the Preſident and Council at* Calcutta. *Dated the 15th* April 1767.

To the Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident, *&c.* Gentlemen of Council at *Fort William.*

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

YOUR Secretary has this day tendered to me, for payment, a bill for the amount of rice bought by me at *Banáras*, demanding intereſt, on a ſuppoſition that I had before refuſed to diſcharge it, according to the information of the late Reſident at *Banáras.*

Mr. *Sage*'s aſſertion, that I refuſed to diſcharge the bill, is falſe; and the act of troubling the honourable board on this occaſion, was both unneceſſary and malicious. Yet as I ſhould be ſorry to appear upon your conſulta-

tions, unjuſtifiedly accuſed of refuſing to pay a juſt debt, it is neceſſary I ſhould trouble you with the matter of fact, which from the tenor of your Secretary's letter, ſeems to have been induſtriouſly concealed.

When, on the 11th *December* 1766, Mr. *Iſaac Sage* preſented the bill to me, I agreed to pay, and tendered the amount, being *Banáras* Siccas 8167. 4. 9. at the *batta* which that ſpecies of rupees might be worth, deducting current rupees 102. 9. 6. the amount of charges which I paid at *Banáras*, on account of the honourable Company, upon the diſpatch down to *Patna* of their deſerted treaſure, which Mr. *Sage* had abandoned to the ſeapoys, upon his running away from the factory, as *per* the invoice, which I tranſmitted to the board, dated the 3d *September* 1766, with my addreſs of the ſame date.

Mr. *Sage*, upon what foundation I cannot ſay, demanded the *Banáras* Siccas at eleven *per cent.* upon *Calcutta* current, and I agreed to pay them only at the *batta* which they are worth in the *Bazar*, or might be deemed worth, according to the cuſtom of merchants, which will not, I believe, be found to exceed four *per cent.* upon *Calcutta* current.——The balance due from me, on my account with the honourable Company, upon the above calculation, I was then and ſtill am ready to diſcharge; but, for the reaſons above aſſigned, I hope you, gentlemen, will not think of demanding intereſt upon money which I can prove to have been tendered immediately when demanded.

I am, with great reſpect,
Honourable Sir and Sirs,
Your moſt obedient ſervant,
(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

Fort William,
the 15th April 1767.

NUM. IX.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to Mr. Secretary* Droz. *Dated the 16th* April 1767.

To Mr. *Simeon Droz*, Secretary, *&c.*

SIR,

I HAVE this day received your letter of the 15th.——Accompanying this you have the letter which I had prepared for the board; which your note, ſo quickly returned, had not given me time to preſent, and which I requeſt you will lay before them and record.

As the board ſeem ſo preſſing for the money, I have drawn out my account current with the honourable Company, which I likewiſe herewith preſent, in which I have allowed the *Banáras* Siccas at four and one-half *per cent.* upon current.

For the balance due from me, I have alſo herewith ſent a bill upon my Shroff; being current rupees, 3175. 7. 9.

I am, SIR,

Calcutta, Your moſt obedient ſervant,
the 16th April 1767. (Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

N. B. The reader will pleaſe to remark in this place, that two days after the date of the foregoing letter, the Select Committee held their conſultation, which is given under Letter A. Number XXVI. page 145, at which they ſentenced the writer to baniſhment from *Bengal*, but kept the whole of their proceedings a profound ſecret from him, and only, on the 29th *April* 1767, acquainted him with their ſentence, as it ſtands, page 154.

NUM. X.

COPY of a Letter from Mr. Secretary Droz *to* William Bolts. *Dated the 27th April* 1767.

To Mr. *William Bolts.*

SIR,

I AM directed by the honourable the Preſident and Council to acquaint you, that they have received your letter, dated the 15th inſtant, as alſo peruſed your replies to my demand on you for the amount of the bill for the Company's grain. They have further ordered me to inform you, that the *Company keeps no open accounts current with any individual.* If, therefore, you have any demands on them, they are to be made *ſeparately*; but they inſiſt upon your paying the full amount of the bill immediately, at the rate of eleven *per cent.* the exchange upon *Banáras* Siccas. They having thought proper to remit their demand for intereſt, I now once more tender you the bill for payment, and at the ſame time return you the account current, and the order on your Shroff.

Your demand on account of the * *Callaries*, is now under the inſpection of the Collector General; when he makes a report of it to the board, *they will act accordingly.*——You muſt apply to the † *Buxey* for payment of the charges you were at, in ſending the treaſure down from *Banáras*.

I am, SIR,

Fort William, Your moſt obedient ſervant,
the 27th April 1767. (Signed) SIMEON DROZ, Sec.

* Salt-pans.

† A member of the board, ſo denominated; who pays ſalaries to ſervants and other diſburſements on account of the Company.

NUM.

NUM. XI.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to Mr. Secretary* Droz. *Dated the 27th* April 1767.

To Mr. *Simeon Droz*, Secretary.

SIR,

IN anſwer to your laſt letter, I can only inform you, that I ſhall, for the preſent, pay no more than the balance of the account ſent you, current rupees 3175. 7. 9. as before tendered.

When I am acquainted with the reſolution of the board regarding the *Callaries*, I will give you my ſentiments more particularly on the ſubject of your letter.

I am, SIR,
Your moſt obedient ſervant,
(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

Fort William,
the 27th April 1767.

NUM. XII.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to the Preſident and Council at* Calcutta. *Dated the 29th* Auguſt 1767.

To *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident,
John Cartier,
Richard Becher,
James Alexander,
Claud Ruſſell,
William Alderſey,
Charles Ffloyer, and
Alexander Campbell, Eſquires; Members of the Council for the affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies*, at *Fort William*.

GENTLEMEN,

IN a letter of the 24th inſtant, your Secretary has acquainted me, it is your orders, that I proceed to *Europe*, on board the ſhip *Lord Holland*, which will be diſpatched in the courſe of next month. It would give me the greateſt pleaſure to be able to comply with thoſe orders, as there is nothing I more earneſtly wiſh for, than to breathe the air of liberty in my

native country. But I am ſorry to ſay, my affairs are not ſo diſpoſed as to enable me ſo ſoon to leave *India*; nor can I, by any means, think of leaving them in their preſent ſituation, to the great detriment and injury, as well of my own family and fortune, as to thoſe of many other perſons whoſe concerns I am intruſted with, unleſs you, gentlemen, can think of ſome method to ſatisfy the concerned; indemnify them for the whole amount; and aſſure the payment of it in *England*: in which caſe I promiſe to be ready to embark next month, in the *Lord Holland*.

You, gentlemen, are perfectly well acquainted with the difficulty and delay attending the cloſing of commercial concerns in *Bengal*. In my addreſs to the Select Committee, of the 7th *February* paſt, I acquainted them, that I had of my own and other peoples then actually employed in trade, about

Rupees, - - - - - - -	800,000	
Since which I have as yet only been able to realize about - - - - -	125,000	
		675,000
Beſides the following concerns of property under my management, *viz.*		
Account of the eſtate of the deceaſed Capt. *Thomas Fenwick*, about - - -		28,000
Account of the heirs to the eſtate of *William Hay*, deceaſed, - - - - -		150,000
Outſtanding concerns of *Johnſtone*, *Hay*, and *Bolts*, - - - - - -		65,000
Ditto——————of *Johnſtone* and *Bolts*,		15,000
Account of *William Johnſtone*, Eſq; of *Weſtminſter*, under the joint management of myſelf and Mr. *John Petrie*, about		750,000
Current Rupees,		1,683,000

Being in all about * ſixteen lacks and eighty-three thouſand current rupees; in which, as to the outſtanding commercial concerns, I can aſſure you there is not, as is too often the caſe, any part which interferes with the inveſtment of the honourable Company.

As to the amount of the eſtate of *William Hay*, deceaſed, it may be ſtruck out of the general concern, if you will be pleaſed to receive the amount, and grant bills for it on the Company; which will be doing a ſingular favour to the relations of the deceaſed, whoſe memory, from the misfortune of his being maſſacred on a public deputation in their ſervice, would ſeem to merit the granting ſuch an indulgence.

With reſpect to the commercial concerns, I would be very glad to make a ſale of them as they ſtand; which purchaſe, I humbly think, might prove an object worth the while of thoſe members of your honourable board who have formed ſocieties for carrying on the inland-trade; as I aſſure you, gen-

* At two ſhillings and a penny *per* current rupee, making 182,325 l. ſterling.

tlemen,

tlemen, in order to finiſh, and to have the pleaſure of immediately complying with your orders, ſhould they be inclined to purchaſe, I would be very reaſonable in my demands.

I ſhall endeavour to get ready clear ſtatements of the above affairs as ſoon as poſſible, in order, with the regular books thereof, to lay them before you whenever you may pleaſe to require it; and whatever method of adjuſtment may appear moſt eligible to your honourable board, as juſtice and the ſecurity of private property are the immediate objects of government, and particularly the aim of our moſt gracious Sovereign and parliament, I ſhall reſt perfectly ſecure in the aſſurance of your ſtrict adherence thereto.

Fort William, I have the honour to be, *&c. &c.*
the 29th Auguſt 1767. (Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

NUM. XIII.

EXTRACT of a Letter from Mr. Thomas Kelſall, *Chief of the* Engliſh *Factory at* Dacca, *to the Preſident*, Harry Verelſt, *Eſq*; *Dated the* 18*th* September 1767. (*See Mr.* Verelſt's *View*, *Appendix*, *page* 196.)

IN a letter I had the honour to addreſs you in the month of *May* laſt, I mentioned, though in a curſory manner, the footing on which the *Dutch* had then newly re-eſtabliſhed their factory at *Dacca*; not, as the event has ſhewn, to tranſact buſineſs on behalf of their Company, but, under the ſanction of public authority, to fulfil a private compact of Meſſrs. *Vernet* and *Bolts*.

The late *Dutch* Reſident, Mr. *Lankheet*, diſdained to accept a commiſſion on ſuch terms, whereupon he was ſuperſeded. His ſucceſſor, when he found, inſtead of a repreſentative of the Company, that he was ſent up in the capacity of a mere gomaſtah, to fulfill a private engagement, in like manner declined it. Both theſe gentlemen have ever ſince been violently perſecuted by Mr. *Vernet*.

Here is an *Armenian*, one *Cogee Miguel Sarkies*, a man that has before done buſineſs for Mr. *Bolts*, who, not ſo ſcrupulous as either of the *Dutch* gentlemen, has made no difficulty of accepting the commiſſion. The buſineſs is now in his hands; and, to fulfill it, he has made over to him, a ſum to the amount of near *ſeven lacks of rupees*, (87,500 l.) So enormous a ſum I ſhould have thought even beyond the conſcience of an *Armenian* to preſume to inveſt; and ſhould have doubted my information, if I had not received it from the beſt authority, *one of the* Dutch *gentlemen*.

I have thought it my duty to give you this intelligence; and truſt, Sir, you will take meaſures for defeating the intentions of Meſſrs. *Vernet* and *Bolts*, and of the *Armenian*, their agent; which muſt materially *prejudice our Company's buſineſs, and the trade in general*; ſince, in order to get in their inveſtment, *they muſt neceſſarily purchaſe at an advanced price*.

NUM. XIV.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to the Mayor and Aldermen of* Calcutta. *Dated the 8th* October 1767.

To *Thomas Woodward*, Eſq; Mayor, and the Gentlemen, Aldermen of the Honourable the Mayor's Court of *Calcutta*.

I AM acquainted with the extraordinary ſtep the Governor and Council have taken towards effecting my removal from my ſeat at your honourable board, in open defiance of his Majeſty's moſt gracious charter: and I congratulate myſelf, as well as the community, upon the juſt diſregard with which you have been pleaſed to treat this glaring attempt to the infringement of the *Britiſh* liberties. An attempt which, had it been given way to, would have been of the moſt dangerous conſequence; a precedent for rendering your court dependant, and, of courſe, uſeleſs to the ſociety for whoſe relief our moſt gracious Sovereign and parliament have been pleaſed to eſtabliſh it; whereby *Britiſh* ſubjects would have been as eaſily deprived of their property and fortunes, as, in the preſent deſpotick reign, they have been of their liberties and every *Britiſh* privilege.

Though the letter to your honourable court appears under the ſanction of the Governor and Council, I conſider it only as the act of Governor *Verelſt* alone, as I ſhall make it appear hereafter to the world.——Conſidered in this light, how deplorable would be our ſituation, if, at the bare deſire of a Governor (or even a Governor and his Council) the expreſs orders of the charter ſhould be ſet aſide, and a free *Britiſh* ſubject expoſed to be deprived of his honour and liberty. "A malicious man, high in ſtation, who boaſts that he is beyond puniſhment, and that juſtice cannot reach him, would have it always in his power to ſpread ruin into every family againſt which he had any averſion. But while law and liberty reign, and while men hold not their property or honour at the mercy of one, or few, this ſecurity will beget in them a diſpoſition inconſiſtent with ſervility and adulation.

Let us not then ſuffer our liberties to be invaded by fraud, or deſtroyed by force; if we do, a diſmal confuſion muſt then quickly enſue; and villainous accuſations, public and private rapine and plunder, illegal impriſonments, confiſcations and proſcriptions diffuſing univerſal miſery, will become the common law of the land."

I defy the Preſident and Council legally to diſqualify me from holding my honourable ſeat in your Court; and I am confident, that you, gentlemen, will never ſuffer me otherwiſe to be diſmiſſed.——Permit me, at the ſame time to aſſure you, Sirs, that I ſhould not miſs a ſingle day's attendance at your Court, even when it is not my turn of rotation, was I not neceſſitated to do it ſometimes, in conſequence of the oppreſſion with which I have been treated,

treated, *as I hope in due time to evince, to the ſhame of my oppreſſors.*——Yet, as I ſhould be glad to know upon what this extraordinary requeſt has been founded, and to have ſo curious a document by me, I requeſt you will be pleaſed to order me an authenticated copy of the letter from the Preſident and Council. Permit me to offer my ſincereſt wiſhes for the proſperity of the honourable Court, and the ſucceſs of every endeavour to ſecure the happineſs of the community, by an impartial adminiſtration of juſtice; who am,

With great reſpect,

GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

Calcutta,
the 8th October 1767.

(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS,
Alderman.

NUM. XV.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to the Preſident and Council at* Calcutta. *Dated the 9th* October 1767.

To *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident,
John Cartier,
Richard Becher,
James Alexander,
Claud Ruſſell,
William Alderſey,
Charles Ffloyer, and
Alexander Campbell, Eſquires; Members of the Council for the affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of *England*, trading to the *Eaſt Indies*, at *Fort William*.

GENTLEMEN,

YOUR Secretary, Mr. *Simeon Droz*, on the 5th inſtant ſent me a letter, dated the 1ſt, which he informs me is written by your orders, acknowledging the receipt of mine of the 29th *Auguſt*, and again ordering me to embark for *Europe* in the next ſhip that will ſail. As your Secretary has not anſwered any of the material parts of my ſaid letter, which require a particular anſwer, I muſt beg leave again to refer you to it, and to requeſt you will be pleaſed to order him to give a ſatisfactory anſwer to every one of the important points on which I had the pleaſure to addreſs you; as well for my own ſatisfaction, as that of my conſtituents. I ſhall then be able to determine regarding my proceeding to *Europe* in the next ſhip, which I ſhall be extremely glad a favourable anſwer from you may enable me to perform. Otherwiſe, as the difficulty of remittances is ſo great, I ſhall not be able to quit

quit *India* this ſeaſon; being, *for weighty reaſons*, reſolved, if poſſible, not to leave behind me a ſingle rupee of my own, or my conſtituents.

Was this not the caſe, gentlemen, it would, notwithſtanding the extraordinary nature of the orders I have received, give me the greateſt pleaſure immediately to embark, without the leaſt murmur or objection; as I ſhould be glad, by my implicit obedience, to give an example to others towards the eſtabliſhment of that ſubordination which the honourable board *have thought* ſo neceſſary in the ſettlement. I have taken the liberty, gentlemen, to ſtyle the orders extraordinary, becauſe, from the firſt eſtabliſhment of the Company, I could give numberleſs examples to prove *it has ever been the cuſtom for gentlemen, who have once had the honour to ſerve as covenanted ſervants, to be permitted to reſide in the country unmoleſted*, not only till they have concluded their own affairs, but as long as they pleaſe. And it is a cuſtom which at this very time has the ſanction of your honourable board, as there are many inſtances to evince.

I come now to the laſt paragraph of your Secretary's letter, wherein he informs me, he is further ordered to acquaint me, that the board have heard that I am "carrying on an improper intercourſe with the *Dutch*, to the pre-"judice of the Company's affairs." This indeed is a charge of a very extraordinary nature; but it is, I aſſure you, gentlemen, totally falſe and without foundation. Whoever the informant be, from whom the board have heard this, I will venture to pronounce him an inſidious villain, and an incendiary, who would, *in the dark*, endeavour to prejudice me in the eyes of your honourable board, and of the honourable the Court of Directors.

I therefore requeſt you gentlemen will do me the juſtice to appoint a day to *confront me with the informant*; when I will engage to expoſe his baſeneſs and falſity, to the ſatisfaction of your honourable board, and the juſtification of my own character. In the mean time, I cannot help lamenting, that you, gentlemen, ſhould have ſo eaſily taken this treacherous information for granted, more eſpecially as I pique myſelf, notwithſtanding the injuſtice I have been treated with, upon having as ſincere a regard for the welfare of the honourable Company as any gentleman in their ſervice, not even excepting any member of your honourable board.

The latter part of your Secretary's letter, upon a ſuppoſition that the above ſcandalous information is true, directs me "*not to leave* Calcutta *with-*"*out expreſs permiſſion.*"—Gentlemen, I never leave *Calcutta* but in the ſame manner as every other gentleman does, on parties of pleaſure. When my private buſineſs, or public attendance on his Majeſty's Court as Alderman, do not require my preſence in *Calcutta*, I make excurſions to all the foreign ſettlements, where I have acquaintances, in the ſame manner as other gentlemen do. But I muſt here, for the firſt time, inform your honourable board of a circumſtance you are not acquainted with;—that the honourable the Select Committee have, in their ſecret proceedings of the 18th *April* paſt, withdrawn the protection of the honourable Company from me. I ſhall not here expatiate upon the grounds, or juſtice of this proceeding; but I am convinced, had your honourable board been acquainted with this circumſtance,

ſtance, you would not have permitted your Secretary to pen ſuch a contradictory * order to me. Thus at one time deprived of protection, baniſhed, and abandoned to the wide world by the ſuperior power of the Select Committee, the board will not, I hope, think of circumſcribing me within the confined limits of the *Marahtah* † *Ditch*, without firſt removing that ſtigma.

I am, *&c. &c.*

Fort William,
the 9th October 1767. (Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

NUM XVI.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Select Committee at Calcutta, *on the 13th October* 1767.

To Meſſrs. *William Bolts* and *John Petrie*, Attornies to Mr. *John Johnſtone.*

GENTLEMEN,

I AM directed by the Preſident and Gentlemen of the Select Committee to ſend you the incloſed extracts from their proceedings; whence you will perceive, THEY CANNOT aſſiſt you in recovering the balances of ſalt for Mr. *Johnſtone*, ſpecified in your letter to the board of the 25th of *Auguſt*.

I am, GENTLEMEN,

Fort William,
the 13th Oct. 1767. Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,
(Signed) ALEX. CAMPBELL.

Paragraph of a Letter from Preſident *Verelſt* and the Select Committee to Mr. *Sykes*, in anſwer to a ‡ Letter from Meſſrs. *Verelſt* and *Sykes*. Dated at *Mootejil* the 28th *June* 1767.

" WE ſhall acquaint Mr. *Barwell*, and the other attornies of Meſſrs. *Johnſtone* and *Leyceſter*, that we do not think the government reſponſible for the balances they claim, ſince the advances, *not being regiſtered*, do not appear to be made *on the public account*.

The above is a true extract.

(Signed) C. W. BOUGHTON,
Aſſiſt. Sec. Select Committee."

* This was meant upon a ſuppoſition that the ſecret proceedings of the 18th *April* 1767 of the Select Committee, (A. page 145.) who acted independently of the Council, had not been communicated to the whole board, when they made their order of the 1ſt *October* 1767.

† This is a ditch eſteemed to be the boundary of *Calcutta*.

‡ See the letter to which this is an anſwer, A. Number XXVII. page 159.

NUM. XVII.

COPY of a Memorial from William Bolts *to the Court of* East India *Directors. Dated* Calcutta, *the* 12*th* October 1767.

To the Honourable Court of Directors for the Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *East Indies*.

Honourable Sirs,

Par. I. AS this is the method which you have been pleaſed to eſtabliſh for all who are aggrieved by the proceedings of your ſervants in theſe parts, and as, from the nature of the grievances I complain of, I have at this time no other method of reſcuing myſelf from the evil impreſſions which may be otherwiſe received by you from the repreſentations tranſmitted to your honourable Board through the channel of your ſelect Committee here, I am therefore emboldened to hope my preſent addreſs will not be deemed either improper or unneceſſary.

II. Had the unprecedented proceeding, I am going to diſcloſe to your Honours, been the act of men leſs diſtinguiſhed by their high ſtations and extraordinary emoluments in your ſervice, I ſhould have paſſed it over in contemptuous ſilence; or as I have a due and perfect ſenſe of the obedience and ſubordination neceſſary to the very being of government, I ſhould firſt have addreſſed your Preſident, and thoſe intruſted with the ſupreme power here: but, unfortunately for me, thoſe are the very gentlemen againſt whom I am neceſſitated to complain.

III. Yet, here let it be remarked, that in many parts of this addreſs, where I uſe the words "Committee" or "their proceedings," the Preſident alone is meant: becauſe I am ſure, throughout the whole, of the part that gentleman acted; but the proceedings of the Select Committee, being ſecret, I know not what members diſſented, or aſſented to them.

IV. On the 29th of *April* paſt, conſcious of no guilt, unheard, and without any previous intimation or knowledge of what was paſſing, I received, from Mr. *Alexander Campbell*, Secretary, the following letter, accompanied with an extract from the proceedings of the Select Committee; containing at once a ſentence of condemnation and puniſhment for a charge, of which I ſolemnly declare, I am totally ignorant; and, of which, every article is notoriouſly falſe.

"*To Mr.* William Bolts.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Honourable the Preſident and the members of the Select Committee to tranſmit to you the incloſed extract from the proceedings of

of the 18th inſtant, and to require your ſtrict obedience to the orders therein ſpecified.

I am, SIR,

Fort William,
20th April 1767.

Your moſt obedient ſervant,
(Signed) ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, Sec. S. C.

(Here comes in the ſentence of the Select Committee of the 18th *April* 1767 already given in page 154)

V. Imagination cannot paint the aſtoniſhment with which I was ſtruck by this unmerited and unparallelled proceeding. To be heard before condemnation is the practice in the moſt arbitrary and deſpotic countries. It would have been permitted me in the *French* Baſtile, or in the Courts of Inquiſition in *Spain*, or *Portugal*; had it been (in this caſe) my better fate to have fallen under their judicial notice. But thus to be condemned, unheard, by the Supreme Power (as I am obliged to call it) in a city ſuppoſed to be under the influence of the ſalutary laws of *Great Britain*, nay, actually ordained ſo to be by our moſt Gracious King and the Parliament, and ſo intended by your Honourable Court, the pen bluſhes to record it.

VI. In this ſituation, when ſo injurious an attack is made upon me, in order to prejudice me in your eyes, Honourable Sirs, to whom am I to appeal? It would be in vain for me here to urge any thing to the gentlemen compoſing your Select Committee, who have already acted towards me in this extraordinary manner. They would only reverberate to me, the appellant, the ſuggeſtions of that very Committee, by way of anſwer to my appeal. I am, therefore, forced to addreſs myſelf to your Honours, from the neceſſity of my caſe, as well as induced thereto by that indiſpenſable obligation which binds every gentleman to defend his own character, and by the deſire I have of ſtanding approved before your Honourable Court.

VII. For though I have reſigned your Honourable Service, and *have nothing to fear from the moſt malignant and penetrating eye of retroſpection, or* (as my views are) *to hope for, from future expectations in your ſervice*, yet permit me, Honourable Sirs, to aſſure you, that there is no one wiſhes with more fervent zeal for the welfare of the honourable Company than myſelf.

VIII. The extraordinary circumſtances of my caſe, I hope, will be allowed to plead an excuſe for my warmth of expreſſion, and boldneſs in cenſuring. To have paſſed over the treatment I have met with unreſented, would be debaſing myſelf below pity; it would be incurring merited contempt.

IX. As I have, as before-mentioned, been condemned unheard, and have never had communicated to me the ſubſtituted grounds on which the accuſation of the Committee is founded (for in tenderneſs to the gentlemen of the Committee I muſt ſuppoſe ſome exiſt) it cannot be expected I ſhould minutely anſwer to every circumſtance inſerted on the Committee-proceedings till they are communicated to me.

X. I therefore, firſt, moſt ſolemnly call upon thoſe gentlemen, publicly to produce to me, and to the world, the whole of thoſe proceedings on which they

found their accuſation: and in the next place, for my juſtification, as far as in my power, before your Honours, I ſhall, with the ſtricteſt regard to truth, proceed to relate the facts within my knowledge, in which I have been concerned, and upon which I ſuppoſe their accuſation was founded.

XI. *Ramnaut*, a merchant, houſeholder, and inhabitant of *Calcutta*, who had formerly ſerved as banyan to Mr. *George Gray*, during the diſputes between your Select Committee and that gentleman, had been for a conſiderable time confined, under a military guard, in your fort, in *Calcutta*. Upon what foundation, how long confined, what he and his family ſuffered therefrom, or what elſe paſſed during this confinement, it is foreign to my purpoſe to relate: ſuffice it to ſay, that after the purpoſes for which he was confined were ſerved, he obtained his releaſement, and for a conſiderable time after was permitted to make his * *ſelaam* at Governor *Verelſt*'s houſe, among other merchants, notwithſtanding certain heavy accuſations againſt him; which, being raiſed without foundation, were never, to this day, legally proved, and I will venture to ſay never will be.

XII. That this aſſertion may not ſurprize, I muſt remark, that the very perſons who are ſaid to have demands upon him, declare they were forced to complain againſt him by *Nobekiſſen*; and have frequently paid him friendly viſits in his confinement, conſoling him, and bewailing his misfortunes. And during his preſent confinement at *Murſhedabad* to this day, now near *ſix months*, no one complainant has been confronted with him, nor any demands of money made upon him, except for ſome ſalt and boats ſold him by your Preſident upon very advantageous terms.

XIII. This man, reduced to poverty by the plunder and extortion of his property, was introduced to me (as was another man ſome time before, whom I will hereafter mention) as having the fame of knowing their language. *Ramnaut*, after having acquainted me with his caſe, fell at my feet, begging that I would put him in a way to obtain juſtice againſt *Nobekiſſen Munſhy*, and reſtitution of certain ſums of money which, he ſaid, the Munſhy had extorted from him during his confinement.

XIV. From a principle of humanity I promiſed him my aſſiſtance; never ſuſpecting, until I received the ſentence of the Select Committee, that any perſon could be offended at ſuch an act of juſtice. He repeated his viſits: in the courſe of which he gave me a *Bengal* narrative, deſiring that I would put into *Engliſh* what was to the purpoſe, and reduce it into ſuch a form as might bid faireſt for ſecuring to him the juſtice which he wiſhed for.

XV. As his intention was ſolely to obtain juſtice againſt *Nobekiſſen*, I purpoſely omitted every thing (of which there was much) foreign to that point, as it would have involved many other perſons: and I drew out his caſe, in the form of a letter, addreſſed to the Governor and Council, in which he begged permiſſion to apply to the *Engliſh* laws for redreſs; not chooſing otherwiſe to

* According to the *Aſiatic* ſtyle, he who after any diſgrace is permitted to appear in the *Hazzoor Walla*, or "high preſence," to make the obeiſance called a *Selaam*, is eſteemed to be forgiven and reſtored to favour.

do

do it, for fear of giving offence, without firſt obtaining the permiſſion of the board.

XVI. The following is an exact copy of his addreſs to the Board:

(Here comes in *Ramnaut*'s letter, which has been given in Conſiderations, page 100.)

XVII. This letter he ſent to your Preſident on the 12th *April* paſt; and was himſelf afterwards, on the 15th *April*, ſummoned before your ſaid Preſident, *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; when he gave the Preſident's banyan (to deliver to the Preſident) a *Bengal* narrative, alſo containing a part of that which I have mentioned in the fourteenth paragraph of this addreſs. He was carried again, on the evening of the ſame day, to Governor *Verelſt*'s houſe, who ſent for him, and queſtioned him, in his chamber, concerning the particulars of his letter; which *Ramnaut* having anſwered, he was told, by the Preſident, that if his complaints were true, he ſhould have ſtrict juſtice done him; and, as he was then ordered, he retired, perſuaded that he ſhould have the ſtricteſt juſtice done him.

XVIII. On his going out of the Governor's chamber and coming into the hall, he was inſtantly met by a party of ſeapoys with fixed bayonets, under the command of the *Jamatdar*, *Sontoſe*, and the *Amuldar*, *Dinmahommed*, who ſeized him, and, not permitting him to ride in his palanqueen, marched him on foot, at about eight o'clock of the ſame evening, from the Governor's to his own houſe, where they kept him in ſtrict confinement, with guards at his doors and in his inward apartments, not permitting any perſons, but his own menial ſervants, to have acceſs to him: all which they ſaid, and told me, was by the Governor's orders. Nor do I believe any perſons, but his ſaid ſervants, did get acceſs to him during his ſaid confinement, myſelf excepted: for on his ſending to me, I went to his houſe to inform myſelf of the truth of what I could not believe from report; and being dreſſed in a red coat, the ſeapoys, miſtaking me for an officer, admitted me into his houſe, where I found him in the ſituation deſcribed, and greatly diſtreſſed. I endeavoured to encourage him, and told him he might depend upon it the Preſident would, in the end, ſee juſtice done him.

XIX. He was afterwards, on a ſubſequent day, again marched to the Governor's houſe, under a military guard, with fixed bayonets. Governor *Verelſt*, immediately, upon ſeeing him, aſked him, "if he had paid the *Dina-*" *gepore Zemindar*'s money?" meaning one of thoſe demands hinted at in the XIth and XIIth paragraphs of this addreſs. The Governor had forgot to aſk this queſtion on the 15th, before *Ramnaut* was ſeized by the military guard and confined; I ſay forgot, becauſe from the event it has appeared, that this was intended as the pretence to be made uſe of for this extraordinary impriſonment.

XX. Notwithſtanding *Ramnaut*'s letter was addreſſed to the Preſident and Council, only requeſting permiſſion to apply to the *Engliſh* laws, Governor *Verelſt* thought it neceſſary to bring his cauſe before the Select Committee, where

where every member is under an oath of ſecrecy to each other: and by their after taking cognizance of the affair, it would ſeem that thoſe gentlemen had alſo reſolved themſelves ſucceſſively from committee-men into juſtices of the peace, jurymen, and judges of oyer and terminer; for *Ramnaut* was frequently marched under his military guard and the reſtrictions beforementioned, to and from his houſe to the Select Committee; who, it muſt be believed, have * recorded ſomething of the affair in their private proceedings.

XXI. Circumſtances thus ſituated, Honourable Sirs, I will venture to take for granted, that, as *Britiſh* ſubjects, you cannot think I was guilty of ill-grounded preſumption in beginning to be apprehenſive for this oppreſſed man. The intelligence of each hour more and more confirmed my apprehenſions; and therefore when *Ramnaut* ſent me news how things were going on, I cautioned him not to † produce his witneſſes, unleſs before an *Engliſh* jury, for fear they alſo ſhould be ſeized and confined; which advice I believe he ſtrictly obſerved.

XXII. Yet, as the point was doubtful how the Preſident intended the affair ſhould end, and I ſtill, good-naturedly, flattered myſelf the poor man would at laſt have juſtice done him, I did not appear publicly, and apply for a writ of ‡ *habeas corpus*, notwithſtanding there was ſo great reaſon for it. Farther conſiderations with me thereon were, that it would have appeared like ‖ "*flying in the face of Government*," have given umbrage to the Governor, and perhaps brought unmerited reſentment upon the complaining merchant; though from the event of this and ſome other ſimilar affairs I may venture alſo to pronounce, that the writ would never have been granted by any civil officer in *Calcutta*, had application been made for it.

XXIII. After the Committee had had two or three private ſittings upon this affair, *Ramnaut* was reconducted to confinement in his houſe, where he remained, in the ſituation before deſcribed, till *Sunday* the third of *May*; on which day he, *Ramnaut*, ſent to me, to inform me he had juſt received intelligence, that repeated orders had come from Governor *Verelſt*, then at the city of *Murſhedabad*, to Mr. *Cartier*, the then temporary Governor at *Calcutta*, to deliver him, *Ramnaut*, up to the § Nabob, for confinement; with farther acquainting me, he had intelligence, that it was intended to ſend him away that evening: and begging that I would come to his houſe, to help him to ſecure his habitation and effects, and to make out a power of attorney to appoint

* It was impoſſible for *Ramnaut* or the writer to obtain any knowledge of the proceedings in *India*.

† By the proceedings of the 18th *April* 1767, which with great difficulty we have at laſt brought to light, it appears *Ramnaut* very prudently followed this advice.

‡ Many of the learned in the law are of opinion that "*Engliſh* ſubjects carry with them "the *Britiſh* laws wherever they form colonies," as may be alſo particularly ſeen in the report of his Majeſty's Attorney and Solicitor General; Appendix to Conſiderations, Page 181. Nevertheleſs, it hath been admitted by ſome, as one of the many enigmas in the *Britiſh* conſtitution,—Whether the *Habeas Corpus* Act extends to the *Eaſt Indies?*

‖ A favourite cant-phraſe of the Select Committee.

§ The Reader will pleaſe to recollect the frequent acknowledgments of the Select Committee, that the Nabob was, in fact, no other than their ſervant.

ſome one to regulate and adminiſter to his affairs during his abſence from *Calcutta*.

XXIV. I accordingly went thither towards night, and found him in ſtrict confinement, under charge of eight *Engliſh* ſeapoys, with their *havaldar Rambukſh*, in great tribulation, and in tears. Upon my expoſtulating with him, and aſking him the reaſon of his dejection and grief, he anſwered, that he was under ſtrong apprehenſions that he was to be murdered, when out of the diſtricts of *Calcutta*. I comforted him as well as I could; telling him his fears were groundleſs, and that he might depend no *Engliſhman* would ever be concerned in ſo horrid an act, or permit the Nabob, or his officers, to perpetrate it. He then exclaimed againſt the *Engliſh* laws, and bewailed the misfortunes, which, he ſaid, his miſtaken notions of their juſtice had drawn upon him.

XXV. This diſcourſe was ſcarcely finiſhed, when there came another party of armed ſeapoys, under the command of *Muraad Khawn*, with three of the Preſident's *hircarahs* named *Peer Mahommed*, *Doſt Mahommed*, and *Gordal Sing*, ſaying, they had the Preſident's orders to carry him, *Ramnaut*, away to the Nabob: which, to this poor man was like the arrival of a death-warrant. He changed colour, trembled, and begged time to arrange his affairs, and ſecure his papers, upon which they abuſed and ill-treated him; and when I remonſtrated with them thereupon, telling them, I was ſure ſuch rigour was not uſed by the Governor's orders, they even preſented the but-ends of their muſquets to me. In this ſituation they obliged him, without any preparation for his journey, or arrangement of his affairs, to quit his houſe; pulling him into the ſtreet, where they bound his hands, like a felon, and hauled him, through the town, to a boat, that had been prepared to carry him away.

XXVI. This, I moſt ſolemnly declare, Honourable Sirs, is a juſt relation of all that I know of this affair, from the commencement of *Ramnaut*'s complaint againſt *Nobekiſſen* to his being carried away from *Calcutta*; in which I have neither aggravated, miſrepreſented, or knowingly omitted any circumſtance. You will therein perceive how far I have been concerned in this tranſaction:—and as the part I acted was founded upon the moſt honourable principles, a regard for the liberties of mankind, and the intereſt of the Honourable Company, as connected with the impartial adminiſtration of juſtice, the more I reflect, the more my conſcience perſuades me of the rectitude of my actions as to the tranſaction in queſtion.

XXVII. If this man has been really guilty of any crimes, let the laws and juſtice have their courſe; in which caſe I ſhould be very averſe to interfere in his favour. But he has, as yet, been legally convicted of none that I, or, I believe, the world are acquainted with. And in the affair here mentioned, I am convinced he has juſtice on his ſide; although he has been ſince treated, as has appeared from the event, with the moſt cruel oppreſſion, as a victim, from the beginning, devoted to deſtruction. For theſe meaſures or their conſequences, ſhould his life be endangered or loſt, where he is at preſent confined, may the concerned therein be made to anſwer to their own conſciences and to their God, *if they ſhould be able to evade their country's juſtice, and the reſentment of your Honourable Board!*

XXVIII.

XXVIII. I ſhall now, Honourable Sirs, proceed to the caſe of the other perſon whom I have mentioned in the XIIIth Paragraph of this Addreſs, and who was likewiſe introduced to me by the ſame perſons as introduced *Ramnaut*, and for the ſame purpoſe of helping him to obtain juſtice againſt *Nobekiſſen*, in which he as earneſtly requeſted I would aſſiſt him. This man, whoſe name is *Gocul Sonar*, complained of falſe impriſonment; at the ſame time ſlightly mentioning ſundry concomitant oppreſſions, of a moſt grievous and injurious nature, which happened during his confinement; for which he was loth to proſecute at that time, leſt he ſhould be entirely expelled his caſt.

XXIX. From his *Bengal* petition and verbal account, I drew up his information, an exact copy of which, as delivered upon oath before the then acting juſtice of peace, *Charles Ffloyer*, Eſq; and as the ſhorteſt account of his caſe, I herewith ſubmit, for the peruſal of your Honours, *viz.*

The * Information of *Gocul Sonar*, Inhabitant of *Calcutta*,

Sheweth,

" That on or about the 1ſt of *Phalgoon* or 10th *February* 1767, one *Ram Sonar* and *Ram Bania*, with a † *hircarah* belonging to *Nobekiſſen Munſhy*, came to the houſe of him, the informant, and did then and there, with force, unlawfully and injurioufly, enter into his inward ‡ *zenana* apartments, ſaying, they had orders from *Nobekiſſen Munſhy* to take away the informant's ſiſter, for his, the ſaid *Nobekiſſen*'s uſe. That on the informant's reſiſting and calling the ‖ *dowhay*, they abuſed him and his mother in the moſt opprobrious terms, and did otherwiſe ill treat them: upon which, the reſt of the informant's family being forced to fly, they unlawfully and by force did, then and there, ſeize the informant's mother, and, againſt the peace of our Lord the King, did forcibly carry her away to *Nobekiſſen*.

That on the next day the ſaid *Ram Sonar* and *Ram Bania* came, with another *hircarah* of *Nobekiſſen*'s, and did forcibly ſeize and carry away the informant and his brother named *Kiſno*, into *Nobekiſſen*'s preſence, who ordered both to be confined. Upon this we offered ſecurity, which he refuſed. We then offered, that one of us ſhould remain in priſon, and the other be at liberty. This alſo he, *Nobekiſſen*, refuſed: but gave orders to his peons, who carried us to priſon, in the collector's *cutcherry*; where we were both confined in the place where felons and thieves are, with our feet in the ſtocks, for two days and three nights; victuals being forbid to be given to us, and none of our people permitted to come near us. And during our confinement, *Ram Sonar*, with one of *Nobekiſſen*'s houſe, forcibly entered the informant's houſe, and carried away his ſiſter to *Nobekiſſen*'s houſe, where he, *Nobekiſſen*, kept

* This information has been already exhibited before the Public in *Conſiderations*, &c. page 96, but as we have found it neceſſary for our preſent refutation, we hope the candid Reader will forgive the repetition, eſpecially as it will ſave him ſome trouble in references.

† A meſſenger or ſpy.

‡ The women's apartments.

‖ An exclamation uſed upon occaſion of any ſudden act of violence.

her confined one night, and violated her. Afterwards he, *Nobekiſſen*, ſent for us from the cutcherry to his houſe, and from thence ordered us to be carried and confined where the Company's hircarahs ſtay, oppoſite to the Governor's houſe; where we were confined one night and one half day; and were afterwards again carried to *Nobekiſſen*'s, and again returned to the ſame place of the hircarahs; from whence we were at laſt releaſed.

That at the general quarter-ſeſſions of this town of *Calcutta*, on the 4th *March* 1767, this informant did repreſent his grievances, in a petition to the grand jury, which he delivered to the foreman, who delivered it to the clerk of the peace, who delivered it to the judges on the bench: but that no inquiry was made into the caſe of the informant, the grand jury being diſmiſſed immediately after the delivery of his petition.

This informant farther ſaith, That on the 17th *March*, at about ten o'clock at night, four peons or pykes, named *Sheik Jaffier*, *Sheik Kheyroo*, *Kiſno*, and *Ram*, came to the informant's houſe, with a peon, named *Mowdy*, who then and there ſeized the informant's brother, named *Kiſno Sonar*, and carried him to *Nobekiſſen*'s houſe, without any legal warrant or authority: nor can the informant conceive any reaſon, unleſs it was to intimidate him from ſeeking redreſs. Thoſe of our caſt (or tribe) as cuſtomary, refuſe to aſſociate with us; and foraſmuch as the ſaid informant conceives the above related proceedings are unlawful and injurious, and are wrongs which tend to the great damage of him, the informant, and are againſt the peace of our Lord the King, his crown and dignity; and whereas the informant is otherwiſe remedileſs, he therefore humbly prays, that a warrant be granted to ſeize and bind over *Nobekiſſen*, and every other perſon concerned in theſe oppreſſions, to the next quarter-ſeſſions.

(Signed) GOCUL SONAR.

(Counter-ſigned)

Sworn to before me *Charles Ffloyer*, one of his Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace for the Town of *Calcutta*, *&c.* this 20th Day of *March* 1767.

CHARLES FFLOYER."

XXX. This tradeſman (*Gocal*) as appears from the above, had, before, preferred his complaint at the general quarter-ſeſſions, on the 4th *March* 1767, in a petition to the grand jury; concerning which petition it was remarkable, that the then Chief-juſtice upon the bench, *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; getting it into his hands, in the preſence of me and ſeveral other gentlemen, put it in his pocket, and then immediately called and diſmiſſed the juries.

XXXI. It was ſaid, to account for this, that the man had not firſt regularly given in his information upon oath before a juſtice of the peace; and therefore ſome time afterwards, on his application to me, I went with him to

the then acting Juſtice of peace, *Charles Ffloyer*, Eſquire. It was with ſome difficulty, and not without altercation, that the ſaid Juſtice conſented to receive the information of the injured perſon: but, at length, he conſented to do it on the following day. Accordingly, I went with the man the next morning; when Mr. *Ffloyer* took his depoſition, upon oath, agreeable to the foregoing copy, which was alſo ſupported by another depoſition of *Kiſno Sonar's*, both taken at the ſame time, upon oath, and in my preſence ſubſcribed to by Mr. *Ffloyer*, as one of his Majeſty's Juſtices of the peace.

XXXII. It was remarkable, that as ſoon as theſe two depoſitions were taken and ſworn to, the Juſtice inſtantly produced, and read in my preſence, a ready-prepared * compoſition from *Nobekiſſen*, containing, in ſome ſheets of paper, a long account of things quite foreign to the affair in queſtion, though intended as an anſwer to *Gocul's* complaint, which *Nobekiſſen* was admitted alſo to ſwear to: in which, however, he acknowledged the impriſonment of the two tradeſmen.

XXXIII. However, having then, as I thought, ſufficiently complied with my promiſe to the injured perſon, of putting him upon a method of obtaining juſtice, which I concluded would of courſe follow, according to the eſtabliſhed laws, I interfered no farther in the affair.

XXXIV. The complainant, *Gocul*, afterwards informed me, both verbally and by letter, that he had, on a ſubſequent day, waited upon the Juſtice, begging that either a warrant might be granted or bail taken from *Nobekiſſen*, in order to have the affair tried at the following ſeſſions; which, he informed me, was refuſed him; and that, on the contrary, he was threatened with the † *Chawbuck*, told that he had no buſineſs with the quarter-ſeſſions, and that his complaints ſhould be tried in the Zemindary-cutcherry.

XXXV. How, by what laws, or for what purpoſe this complaint, lodged before, and taken by one of his Majeſty's Juſtices of the peace on the oaths of two perſons, could be transferred to the Zemindary-cutcherry, I am unable to ſay, as alſo, what may have paſſed relative to this affair before the Zemindar. But that it was ſo transferred, and ſome proceedings held thereon, will appear from the following paragraphs.

XXXVI. On receipt of the ſentence of the Select Committee, I immediately wrote a letter to Mr. *Charles Ffloyer*, as follows:

To Charles Ffloyer, *Eſq; late Zemindar.*

SIR,

I FIND that ſome proceedings of the Court of Zemindary, with a report from you thereupon, in which my character is concerned, have been laid before the Select Committee, and upon which inferences have been drawn to the prejudice of me, unheard. I have applied to the acting Zemindar for them, who informs me you have them. I therefore requeſt you will furniſh me with

* This was the paper taken notice of in our laſt note upon the Committee proceedings, See A, Page 152.

† Flagellation.

ſuch

ſuch of the proceedings as concern me, that I may have an opportunity of juſtifying myſelf.

I am, *&c.*

29th April 1767. (Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

To which I received the following Anſwer, *viz.*

"*To Mr.* William Bolts.

SIR,

I SHALL this evening deliver over to the acting Zemindar ſundry papers relating to the complaint lodged by *Ram Sonar* and *Kiſno* againſt *Nobekiſſen*. To him therefore you will pleaſe to apply for ſuch information as you are deſirous of obtaining.

I am, *&c.*

29th April 1767. (Signed) CHARLES FFLOYER.

On Receipt of this Letter I wrote the following one:

To William Alderſey, *Eſq*; *Zemindar*.

SIR,

ON my application to Mr. *Ffloyer* yeſterday, he informed me he ſhould ſend the papers to you in the evening. I therefore beg you will furniſh me with ſuch of them as I am concerned in, with the Zemindar's report thereon to the Select Committee. To ſave trouble, if you will be ſo kind as to ſend them to me, they ſhall be returned in half an hour. I am, *&c.*

30th April 1767. (Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

Upon receiving no anſwer to this letter, notwithſtanding I repeatedly ſent for one, I waited upon Mr. *Alderſey* perſonally; who then informed me, he had delivered over the papers to Mr. *Henry Goodwin*, to whom the office of Zemindar was transferred; but at the ſame time informing me, that if the proceedings were in his poſſeſſion, he would not ſuffer me to be acquainted with any part of them. Upon this I applied to Mr. *Henry Goodwin* perſonally, and was told, that he could by no means communicate them to me.

XXXVII. Thus was I referred, in a very unaccountable manner, from one to the other, and at laſt totally precluded from the knowledge of what it moſt intimately concerned me to know, in order to my juſtification.

XXXVIII. However, with reſpect to the affairs of *Gocul Sonar* and *Ramnaut*, as from the conſideration of the whole proceedings, ſo far as came to my knowledge, it appeared at laſt evident, that the gentlemen in power were determined at any rate to protect *Nobekiſſen* from being brought to juſtice, I deſiſted from acting farther in the affair. Two reaſons occurred: firſt, as this protection was of ſo extraordinary a nature, I concluded there muſt doubtleſs have been ſome powerful motives, though unknown to me, which for the intereſt of the Honourable Company might render this protection, for a time, politically neceſſary, though unjuſt. Secondly, that if it proceeded from any ſiniſter cauſes, while thoſe who alone could afford redreſs to the injured were

determined to withhold it, all farther endeavours would at that time prove fruitleſs. But it is to be hoped the gentlemen concerned will now, by unanſwerable reaſons, make appear the conſiſtency and rectitude of their conduct in this affair; to the ſatisfaction, not only of your Honourable Court of Directors, but of the whole world.

XXXIX. Thus, Honourable Sirs, have I been obliged, for my juſtification, to encroach on your valuable time, by a circumſtantial, and I fear, tedious account of every thing, in which I have been concerned, relative to thoſe two affairs, on which I have reaſon to believe the gentlemen of the Select Committee have wholly founded their accuſations of me. I have neither concealed or miſrepreſented a ſingle circumſtance of theſe tranſactions; in which, as far as I have been concerned, I repeat, I have been actuated by no other principle than a regard for juſtice, in the relief of the oppreſſed, and the welfare of the Honourable Company, as intimately connected with the impartial adminiſtration thereof.

XL. I defy the gentlemen of the Select Committee to produce a ſingle proof which ſhall convict me of having acted contrary to thoſe principles: and I once more ſolemnly call upon them, to produce their private proceedings reſpecting me.

XLI. From the conduct of thoſe gentlemen, throughout theſe tranſactions, their ſentiments appear widely different from thoſe inculcated by your Honourable Court, on the adminiſtration of juſtice to the natives; on which ſubject, in one of your general letters to *Madraſs*, you were pleaſed to inſert the following words: "Excluſion of the advocates for the parties, introduces and begets a ſuſpicion and jealouſy, that your doors are not open to the people. Conſider, juſtice itſelf done in the dark is never to be juſtified, as begetting a practice by which injuſtice, at another time, may be ſcreened: and, therefore, above all things, let your Courts be open to all perſons, *&c. &c.*" But the preſent gentlemen, even where *Europeans* are concerned, as in my caſe, exclude even the parties themſelves.

XLII. Having thus laid before you, Honourable Sirs, a candid expoſition of every thing I know, or have been concerned in, I leave you to judge how far I have merited the ſentence with which the Select Committee have endeavoured to ſtigmatize me; and, before I intirely quit this ſubject, I beg once more to refer you to the ſaid ſentence, with my remarks thereon:

"That Mr. *William Bolts* appears, "from many circumſtances, to be "deeply concerned in the conſpiracy "to ruin *Nobekiſſen*'s character, and "attempt his life:

"In which opinion the Committee "are confirmed, by his violent and "declared-reſentment to *Nobekiſſen*;"

Had not this my juſtification been laid before you, Honourable Sirs, you doubtleſs would have concluded, from this cruel inſinuation, that I had been concerned in ſome attempt to aſſaſſinate this man. I never ſuſpected or heard of any conſpiracy; and after what I have already wrote, I can only ſay, in anſwer to both the imputations contained in this charge, that they are abſolutely falſe and injurious. Reſentment implies an injury received by me; whereas I have never had the leaſt

leaſt connection with this man, either commercial, or, in his way, political. I have in my private converſation with one of the members of the Committee, from a regard for the welfare of the Company and the public good, declared my deteſtation of certain tranſactions of *Nobekiſſen* up the country, in which he notoriouſly ſold his maſter and the Company's intereſt, for large conſiderations in money: and I remember, that Member of the Committee, at the ſame time, drew *Nobekiſſen*'s character in very reproachful terms. If this be what is meant by my violent and declared reſentment, let the gentleman ſtand forth. If there be any thing elſe meant, or any other foundation to be produced, let the gentlemen of the Committee declare it.

"By the ſhare he took in ſtirring "up and inſtigating a proſecution "againſt him in the Zemindary "Court,"

It is falſe, that I ever had any ſhare in a proſecution againſt him in the Zemindary Court, nor have I ever heard of any made againſt him in any ſuch place: neither have I been concerned in inſtigating any proſecution whatever againſt him.

"Upon an imaginary and falſe "accuſation;"

I know of no ſuch accuſation. But if this means the accuſations of *Ramnaut* and *Gocul Sonar*, they appear to have every mark of reality which an accuſation can poſſibly have. As to their falſity, I will venture to ſay, at leaſt with equal, if not better foundation, that had they been brought before an unbiaſſed *Engliſh* jury, they would have been found true, notwithſtanding any form or ſhape to which they may have been wreſted by proceedings, *coram non judice*.

"And particularly from his taking "at this juncture into his ſervice "*Ramnaut*;"

This man had agreed and engaged to recover certain outſtanding debts in the *Purnea* and *Maldah* countries, on which he was to receive from me five *per cent.* commiſſion. But he was never actually employed by me, the Preſident having confined him about the time of this agreement; whereby the ſaid outſtanding debts, to the amount of about twenty thouſand rupees, are become actual loſſes.

"A man who ſtands publickly "convicted of perjury;"

This is the firſt time I ever heard of this charge; and had I known this circumſtance, I would never have engaged, as above-mentioned, to riſk my property in his hands. However, upon receipt of this private intelligence, I conſulted the records of thoſe Courts, where only a man can be legally and publickly convicted of "perjury:" but I have never been able to diſcover any ſuch thing, nor have I, from the ſtricteſt inquiry among the inhabitants of this town, ever been able to diſcover the truth of this ſhocking aſſertion.

" With a view of forging and pub-
" liſhing farther aſperſions on *Nobe-*
" *kiſſen*'s character."

This merits ridicule rather than a ſerious anſwer. Tremendous indeed muſt be that Select Committee whoſe ſecret powers enable them to paſs ſentence of judgment, not only on the apparent actions of man, but upon the motions of his mind, after conviction from the examination of the inmoſt receſſes of his heart!

" That Mr. *Bolts* having, upon
" this and many other occaſions, en-
" deavoured to draw an odium upon
" the adminiſtration, and to promote
" faction and diſcontent in the ſettle-
" ment, has rendered himſelf un-
" worthy of any further indulgence
" from the Committee, and of the
" Company's protection.

" That, therefore, he be directed
" to quit *Bengal*, and proceed to *Ma-*
" *draſs* by the firſt ſhip that ſhall ſail
" for that Preſidency in the month of
" *July* next, in order to take his
" paſſage from thence to *Europe* in
" *September*."

I deny that I ever attempted ſo odious a taſk. The odium and diſcontent reigning in the Settlement were, and always will be, the conſequences of arbitrary and oppreſſive proceedings. It is unjuſt in theſe gentlemen to aſcribe to me what are the conſequences of their own actions. I have received no indulgence, nor do I require any from them. Therefore what is meant by *the Company's protection* in this place, I am at a loſs to conceive. Surely it cannot be meant, that I am now liable to be delivered over for confinement, or other purpoſes, to the Nabob! The protection of the Honourable Company I conſider in the ſame light as the protection of the laws of *Great Britain*, and I wiſh to exiſt no longer than I may be worthy of that protection. Either, therefore, theſe gentlemen mean to aſſume a right of depriving me of the benefit of the laws of *England*, or that the laws of the Honourable Company are ſomething different from or repugnant to them, which they will not dare to aſſert: or elſe they mean nothing at all.

XLIII. I have now, Honourable Sirs, gone through the whole of what relates to the ſentence pronounced by your Select Committee againſt me, unheard. How far this proceeding is conſiſtent with common juſtice, how reliſhable to any *Britiſh* ſubject, or how this and the other related tranſactions become the gentleman entruſted with the government of your affairs, who, from his ſtation, ſhould be conſidered as the guardian and aſſertor in this country, of the juſtice of the *Engliſh* laws, and the honour of the nation, as well as of the intereſt of the Company; I leave you, Honourable Sirs, to judge.

XLIV. I will not preſume to know what powers you may have been pleaſed to inveſt your Select Committee with, though from the nature of things, conſiſtent with the welfare of your ſervice, I will venture to ſay, be they what they may, thoſe gentlemen have by far exceeded the powers intended them by your Honourable Court. The original intention of that appointment was the regulation of your foreign, military, and political operations

with ſecrecy; whereas the preſent gentlemen have extended their juriſdiction unlimitedly to all affairs, domeſtick, commercial, eccleſiaſtical, civil, and criminal; wherein the neceſſity of ſecrecy in ſtate-affairs has been made the pretence to warrant every unwarrantable act.

XLV. After Governor *Verelſt*, and others of your ſervants, both at home and abroad, have given you their ſentiments ſo fully on the inſtitution of a Secret Committee, going ſo far as to aſcribe to it, even when limited to the proper objects, many of the miſchiefs which have befallen your affairs in theſe parts, it would be preſumptuous and impertinent in me to attempt to add any thing on that head. But, Honourable Sirs, with all humble ſubmiſſion, I muſt beg leave to remark, that upon the preſent eſtabliſhment of your Committee, the above uſurpation of power has been the cauſe of univerſal diſguſt among your ſervants and others; no way beneficial to your affairs; and of ſervice to none, excepting the Members of the Committee, to whom it has been a ſource for private emolument and the indulgence of partial pique.

XLVI. You will obſerve, as in the caſe of *Ramnaut*, where an act of oppreſſion is intended, which the laws of nature and of nations, taken in their moſt unlimited ſenſe, will not authorize, much leſs the determinate laws of *Great Britain*, how conveniently the Nabob can be brought in by thoſe very gentlemen, under whoſe direction alone he acts.

XLVII. And you will perceive, Honourable Sirs, how, from the ſame cauſes and by the ſame means, even a *Britiſh* ſubject can be expoſed to the deprivation, not only of his good name and fortune, but of his liberty or even life; while redreſs of his grievances is either totally unobtainable, or ſet at ſuch a diſtance as will, in moſt caſes, exclude him from the benefit intended him, by the too late application of a remedy, when obtained.

XLVIII. Though it is the oppreſſed alone who can truly feel the diſtreſs of ſuch a ſituation, be pleaſed, Honourable Sirs, to conſider what a ſubject muſt ſuffer, thus treated by your ſervants abroad, while, at home, the utmoſt care of our Gracious Sovereign and Parliament is employed, and the endeavours of your Honourable Court have not been wanting, to preſerve our happineſs, without infringement of our liberties. It is to your wiſdom, Honourable Sirs, we muſt firſt look for the prevention, by future regulations, of thoſe evils which your ſervants, in high ſtations here, have, of their own authority, brought upon their fellow ſubjects: evils which muſt naturally be productive of univerſal diſcontent, and, if not ſpeedily remedied, will, in the end, bring upon the Honourable Company the odium of a whole nation, as well as the reſentment of a Monarch, incenſed at the breach of his royal charter of juſtice, and at the thus trifling with the ſalutary laws to which he hath been graciouſly pleaſed to aſſent.

XLIX. Before I conclude this addreſs, I ſhall take the liberty to make a few remarks upon another branch in the adminiſtration of your affairs here, the due conducting of which is of no leſs conſequence to the proſperity of the affairs of the Honourable Company, than the impartial adminiſtration of juſtice. I mean the management of your revenues; wherein there is wanting much accuracy and reformation: and to effect which, the utmoſt attention of your Honourable Court, and of your ſervants here, will be requiſite.

L. As this addreſs affords me the moſt favourable opportunity for theſe remarks, to which I am led by the deſire of contributing my mite for the general advantage of the proprietors of *Eaſt India* ſtock, in which I alſo am in a ſmall degree a party concerned, I hope they will be conſidered as neither unſeaſonable or impertinent.

LI. Your preſident and gentlemen of Council here, it muſt with pleaſure be allowed, have employed their utmoſt attention to the increaſe of your inveſtment: and you will doubtleſs receive this ſeaſon greater returns in goods from this country, than you have had in any one year ſince the eſtabliſhment of the Company. Yet, not to depreciate the merits of your ſervants in this particular, it muſt be acknowledged, that their extraordinary attention to this leſſer object has been the cauſe of great injury to the more important one, your revenues.

LII. Let us ſuppoſe, that eight ſhips may be diſpatched for *Europe*, and that your inveſtment will this ſeaſon amount to at leaſt ſixty-five lacks of rupees. I will venture to aſſert, that, after all the care and attention that can be employed, in looking after the gomaſtahs, and attending to this branch, a greater ſaving cannot be effected than ten *per cent.* upon the proviſion of the goods here; which, upon the above-mentioned ſum, would be a gain to the Company, of rupees . . . . . 6,50,000 . 0 . 0

To which muſt be added the profits ariſing from the produce in *Europe*, on the increaſe of the inveſtment, this year, about . . . . . 65,00,000 . 0 . 0

The inveſtment formerly provided, *communibus annis*, eſteemed at . . 40,00,000 . 0 . 0

The increaſe is . . . . . rupees 25,00,000 . 0 . 0

Upon which, eſtimating the net * profits at 70 *per cent.* . . 17,50,000 . 0 . 0

We may thence conclude that . . . current rupees 24,00,000 . 0 . 0

is pretty near the utmoſt amount of the advantages which can poſſibly, on this head, accrue to the Company. And yet this advantage is not totally free from certain inconveniencies of a very evil tendency, of which I ſhall hereafter take notice.

LIII. How trifling this ſum, when compared to the immenſe ſavings which might be made from one week's attention to the innumerable abuſes in that infinitely ſuperior concern, the collection of your REVENUES! which is left almoſt intirely to the ſuperintendency of one gentleman: who is, at the ſame time, loaded with the additional charge of chief of your factory at *Coſſimbazar*. Not to undervalue the capacity, diligence, or integrity of that † gentleman, I will venture to aſſert, that was he poſſeſſed of five times his preſent powers, he, or any other ſingle perſon, in the ſame ſituation, would

* It appeared ſoon afterwards, that many articles of the inveſtment ſcarce produced prime coſt. See A, Page 252.

† *Francis Sykes*, Eſq;

be

be unequal to ſo important a poſt.——A ſtation, wherein he is not only intruſted with the direction of the Nabob and his officers, but required alſo to ſuperintend the interior collections and the adminiſtration of juſtice, as well as to attend to the political and commercial intereſts of a country, which, notwithſtanding ſome diſtricts are * detached, is ſtill of much greater extent, and not leſs populous than *Great Britain*. A ſingle gentleman in this important poſt muſt, from the nature of the cuſtoms and univerſal diſpoſition of the people of this country, be ſurrounded by none but harpies; who, from the higheſt to the loweſt, will be always intereſted in deceiving him. The abuſes which in this ſituation muſt neceſſarily creep in, to the detriment of your intereſts, are many, and muſt be obvious to any perſons who have been even but little converſant with thoſe affairs in this country.

LIV. In taking notice of theſe abuſes, it muſt be remarked, that there are now three ſets of people to be ſatisfied; one, thoſe Mutſeddees imployed immediately by the *Engliſh* gentlemen, who, from the ſuperior influence they aſſume, muſt generally be firſt ſatisfied; another, thoſe Mutſeddees employed by the ſuperior officers in the Nabob's Government; and the third, thoſe officers themſelves. Under theſe, the diviſions and ſubdiviſions are innumerable: all of whom, from the Nabob down to the † *ſheikdar* and ‡ *pyke* of a village, muſt have their *bukrah* or ſhare of the plunder.

LV. At the feaſt called the *poonea*, or the time appointed for ſettling the revenues for the year, the different Rajahs, Zemindars, or Fowzdars either appear in perſon or ſend their vakeels to negociate the ‖ *malguzary* to be eſtabliſhed for the enſuing ſeaſon, and to adjuſt the accounts of that expired. On theſe occaſions, whether a zemindar has been punctual or not in the timely payment of his revenues or rents according to the ſtipulated § *kiſtbundy*, the Mutſeddees never want a complaint againſt him; a pretence for raiſing his revenues; or a competitor to be oppoſed to him for the purpoſe of ſecuring his conſent to the payment of a nuzzeranah, or preſent demanded; which nuzzeranah is generally increaſed by the Zemindar, in proportion as the Government-officers, upon whom your Reſident muſt depend for his information, conſent to decreaſe the ſum to be agreed upon, as the malguzary for the year. In this ſituation, he who agrees to the largeſt ſum of nuzzeranah, is let looſe upon the country for the enſuing year; who, being ſenſible of the precarioufneſs of his tenure, it muſt be ſuppoſed, will make the beſt uſe of his time, to the pillaging and depopulating of the country.

LVI. When the term of the monthly payments agreed on arrives, if the Zemindar has not his ¶ *kiſt* ready to a day, as is very ſeldom the caſe, he is, in all parts of the provinces under the Nabob, charged with rupees 3. 2. 0. or thereabouts, *per cent. per menſem* intereſt, with a deduction of from 3. to 8. *per cent.* ſhroffage or batta, upon what is called the *cutcha-amdany*, or the

* The Chiefſhips and Reſidencies put under the management of other gentlemen.
† A ſubordinate officer of the collections.
‡ A watchman.
‖ The net revenue of a province.
§ The liſt of payments agreed upon.
¶ Payment

payment of the rupees in different ſpecies, as they come from the pergunnahs, before reduced to *ſicca-ſaky* or the ſum of ſiccas, for which the Zemindar will have credit in the cutcherry books: which allowances are almoſt wholly the perquiſites of the Mutſeddees. Beſides theſe allowances, in ſome places, the *Engliſh* Dewan or principal Mutſeddee, when the Zemindar is not himſelf able to pay immediately, takes the amount of the kiſt, due from the Zemindar, upon himſelf, giving a receipt to the Subahdar, called a *paat*, for the amount as received; at the ſame time, when the demands upon him for the caſh make it neceſſary, borrowing, from the ſhroffs, as much as is required. This the Dewan's influence among them, and their affluence render eaſy; and on this account a deduction is made from the amount paid by the Zemindar, of ten *per cent.* which allowance is called *paatwaan*; excluſive of five *per cent.* taken alſo upon the ſaid ſum, under the head of Ruſſum or Duſtore for the under-ſircars. People are alſo ſent, under many different denominations, into the Pergunnahs by the *Engliſh* and the *Government-mutſeddees*, to examine accounts, and to haſten and forward the collections; who always receive very conſiderable allowances from the Zemindars or the Ryots in the diſtricts they are ſent to, beſides large ſums which they ſometimes obtain for concealing their diſcoveries. And it muſt be remarked, that the above-mentioned allowances charged upon the monthly payments made by the Zemindar, for the deficiency of which he muſt ſtill fill up the ſum of the kiſt, form the charge upon the Zemindar, of a compound or aggregate ſum, much greater than the ſame would amount to, charged at once on a fixed ſum *per annum*.

LVII. Theſe impoſitions prevail more or leſs in all parts of the provinces *under the Nabob*; and it was by ſuch methods that *Juggut Seat*, who in the time of former Subahdars had the intire ſhroffing of the revenues, amaſſed a fortune, as his countrymen calculate, of about * ſeven crores of rupees.

LVIII. Inconceivable are the numberleſs means of ſimilar impoſitions, which the methods of collecting in this country at preſent afford, and which, from the nature of thoſe methods, and the ſituation of your reſident, will eſcape, in many places, his utmoſt vigilance. However, in the end, they all fall upon the ryot, and terminate in the loſs of the Honourable Company: inſomuch, that I will venture to aſſert, of ſixteen annaes in the rupee, received from a poor ryot in the Pergunnahs, not above ſeven annaes ever reach your coffers. This calculation, which I eſteem very moderate, I am certain will hold good throughout the whole of the collections in the provinces *under the Nabob*, or, what is the ſame thing in fact, *under your Reſident*; *as I am confident time will diſcover*.

LIX. The accounts of the preſent produce of your *Calcutta* twenty-four pergunnahs ſufficiently evince more than a poſſibility of the increaſe I have hinted at. Thoſe pergunnahs, which formerly did not yield you three lacks, now, that the knowledge of their value is aſcertained, will be found, with great eaſe, to produce ten. Nay, they were very near being farmed out laſt year, though upon a very injudicious plan, to *Nobekiſſen*, for thirteen lacks, including the zemindary and town of *Calcutta*; of which laſt, as to the judicial part, he had actual poſſeſſion for ſome months. Not that I mean to rate thoſe lands

* 8,750,000l. Sterling.

at thirteen lacks; which, from the little knowledge I acquired, while I had the honour of acting as one of the collectors, accomptant, treaſurer, and ſecretary to your committee of lands, I am certain they will not at preſent produce, without ruining the tenants: unleſs the profits ariſing from the making of all the ſalt produced in them be likewiſe brought to account. But I would be underſtood to rate them at ten lacks only.

LX. If, therefore, my calculation be admitted, that out of ſixteen annaes that are collected, only ſeven, or thereabouts, ever reach your coffers, it will follow, that inſtead of from two to three crores, which you actually receive as the produce of the provinces under the Nabob, you ſhould at leaſt receive SIX CRORES OF RUPEES.

LXI. Objections may perhaps be made, by ſome, to what I have here aſſerted; but, even admitting all that it may be imagined pride or ſelf-intereſt will be able to ſuggeſt, in oppoſition to this ſyſtem, friends and foes will be equally obliged to grant, that after all, there ſtill remains in this department, a finer field for improvement, and more worthy of the firſt and principal attention of your Preſident and Council, than your inveſtment or any other commercial branch; which, notwithſtanding, ought not to be neglected. And that ſo great and important a charge as is now held by a Reſident at the *Durbar*, is by much too complex and weighty for the execution of one * gentleman, however extraordinary may be his attention, capacity, and integrity.

LXII. But, Honourable Sirs, ſuppoſing you ſhould ever be ſo unfortunate, as not to meet with a gentleman at the head of this department, of equal integrity with the preſent, the abuſes would then increaſe: and upon the preſent ſyſtem of conducting your revenues, as you would have no check upon the Reſident, you would be totally precluded from the means of obtaining a knowledge of the real worth of your acquiſitions. The debaſement of your coin in your mints; the lending out your own money, in the Nabob's name, at three *per cent. per* month to your own Zemindars, to help them to pay up your own rents; with the embezzlement of four or five *per cent.* upon what is called the cutcha-amdany, would be the leaſt of the impoſitions you would in this branch be expoſed to. It is idle to imagine the Nabob, or his officers, would be any check on ſuch a Reſident. He is the man they would be glad of, and they would go hand in hand with each other.

LXIII. It is the wiſdom of your Honourable Court that muſt form a ſcheme for redreſſing the abuſes actually exiſting; obviating others which it is poſſible may hereafter be introduced; and for obtaining the advantages which, upon a judicious and well-regulated plan, you would have a right to expect from this object.

LXIV. In the mean time, with all due ſubmiſſion and deference, I humbly beg leave to lay before your Honourable Court a few indigeſted remarks, which I hope can be of no diſſervice, if they do not aſſiſt your more mature deliberations on this important ſubject.

LXV. Farming † the lands out in ſmall lots to the higheſt bidder ſeems the firſt and moſt obvious method which preſents itſelf to our conſideration:

* The Court of Directors afterwards ſeparated the Chiefſhip of *Coſſimbazar* from the Reſidency at the *Durbar*; to which it had been annexed by Lord *Clive*.

† At a ſubſequent period the Directors alſo adopted this plan of farming.

but ſhould this be determined on, it muſt only be a temporary expedient, as was the caſe in your *Calcutta* pergunnahs. For though this method has ſome conſiderable advantages to be pleaded in its favour, in order to the leading ſteps towards aſcertaining the real value of the lands; yet a continuation of it, from the general diſpoſition of farmers, but particularly of thoſe in this country, would tend more to the depopulation than the improvement of them. And while the Honourable Company muſt be conſidered as Sovereigns of the country, it appears inconſiſtent with the dignity of that character, that their ſubjects ſhould be abandoned to the ravages of farmers: ravages which, upon the preſent footing of affairs, I fear no reſtrictions on farmers could ever totally prevent.

LXVI. But I humbly think, it is not impracticable to attain the ends propoſed, with every advantage, and at the ſame time obviating every diſadvantage of the method of farming.

LXVII. The *Subahdar*, the Naib-*Subahdar*, and ſome of their principal officers, have already been limited to certain ſtipulated annual ſums or ſalaries. I would propoſe, that the ſame method ſhould be taken with every Rajah, Zemindar, and Fowzdar throughout the country, as well as with every other officer, from the higheſt to the loweſt, employed in the buſineſs of the revenues; who ſhould be engaged, and prohibited (under the penalty of death upon conviction) from exacting or receiving from the ryots, one cowry more than the rent due from them, according to the eſtabliſhed rates. They ſhould be reſtricted, under the ſame penalty, from every embezzlement of the ſums collected, which ſhould be faithfully, and without diminution, tranſmitted to the * *ſudder-cuttherries*.

LXVIII. And as the ſervice would admit of it, I would propoſe, that one or more covenanted ſervants ſhould be ſtationed to the † ſuperintendency of the collections at every principal Zemindary.

LXIX. I would propoſe to admit of no Zemindars, *&c.* but thoſe who are hereditary: and upon the heirleſs demiſe of every hereditary Zemindar, I would confer the Zemindary upon no other; endeavouring, as much as poſſible, to free the ryots and the Company from that race of blood-ſuckers; every where ſubſtituting in their room, Company's collectors, whoſe ſtations, for their encouragement, ſhould be made as honourable and lucrative as they could be rendered, conſiſtently with the intereſt of the Honourable Company and the general good.

LXX. To guide and ſupport this ſyſtem, I would propoſe, that your Preſident, with a Council, and as many of your other valuable ſenior-ſervants as to you, Honourable Sirs, might appear requiſite, ſhould be ſtationed at the city of ‡ *Murſhedabad*, leaving a Deputy-governor and another Council at *Calcutta*, to attend to your ſhipping-concerns, and the management of the lands of your former grants as cuſtomary.

LXXI. The gentlemen thus ſtationed at *Murſhedabad*, at the ſame time would be much more conveniently ſituated than at *Calcutta*, for the conduct-

* The chief office for the receipt of the revenue in any province.
† This plan was afterwards adopted by the Court of Directors.
‡ The Court of Directors alſo appointed a Board of Revenue at *Murſhedabad*.

ing

ing of your military and political affairs, connected with the country-powers, and with as great convenience alſo thoſe connected with *Europeans*: and beſides, might with eaſe ſuperintend the whole proceedings of your other ſervants.

LXXII. If objections be made to the propoſal of puniſhing the embezzlements of the revenues by immediate death upon conviction, it muſt be obſerved, that, as the diſeaſe is violent, it requires a violent remedy. Nor is it to be expected that any other milder method will effectually put a ſtop to this evil; which is ſo deeply rooted in cuſtom and practice throughout the country.——An evil which, like the frauds, breaches of truſt, and oppreſſions committed by gomaſtahs, has perhaps prevailed only becauſe, in general, no other notice has been taken thereof, than by diſmiſſion, or, at worſt, by impriſonment and compelling them to refund what could be proved illicitly gained; which, in general, is but a ſmall ſhare of the ſpoil made. For during the ſeven years that I have had the honour of employing in your ſervice, though the bad behaviour of gomaſtahs and their frauds have been univerſally acknowledged, detected, and complained of, yet I do not remember that a capital puniſhment has ever been inflicted on any one of them. And, therefore, I am inclined to believe, that when the officers of the revenues find you are in earneſt, a very few examples made of the principal ones on their tranſgreſſing, would put a ſpeedy and effectual ſtop to the embezzlement of your revenues.

LXXIII. Should the acquiſitions of the Honourable Company be continued to them, as, notwithſtanding the late violent conteſts at home, I ſincerely and heartily wiſh they may: to impower your Honourable Court legally to carry into execution ſuch a plan as the above, or ſuch other as may to your ſuperior wiſdom appear beſt adapted to the attainment of the end propoſed, the applications neceſſary to be made to Parliament will doubtleſs be the firſt views that will occur to your Honours.

LXXIV. In the execution of ſuch a plan, of which I have only preſumed to trace a few outlines, many advantageous regulations in the detail of buſineſs, conducing to the benefit of the general plan, will doubtleſs be thought of and adopted, as well by your Honours as by the many worthy ſervants in your employ here. Let me leave ſuch and other regulations to abler heads, being apprehenſive leſt I ſhould be thought already too preſumptuous: but as a deſire for the proſperity of the Company's affairs is my only motive for what I have taken the liberty to write, I hope, as ſuch, it will be received by you in good part.

LXXV. Upon the ſubject of the preſent increaſe of your inveſtment, it may be remembered I hinted, in the LIId paragraph, that the advantage of this extraordinary increaſe was not totally free from certain inconveniencies of a very evil tendency; which it is neceſſary I ſhould now explain.

LXXVI. I was led to this remark, by the repeated orders which your Honourable Court have been pleaſed to give your ſervants here, on the ſubject of the inland-trade, *viz.* "to regulate it ſo, that it ſhould neither be oppreſſive to the natives or hurtful to the revenues:" Which orders you have alſo

alſo poſitively and peremptorily enforced; particularly in your general letter of the 19th *February*.

LXXVII. To comply with thoſe injunctions is totally impracticable, without the alteration of many regulations at preſent ſubſiſting. And at beſt, to form a plan that ſhall anſwer thoſe purpoſes, and, at the ſame time, your other expectations regarding your inveſtment, will be a very difficult taſk: to effect which you muſt, for one ſeaſon at leaſt, forego ſome advantages in the proviſion of your inveſtment.

LXXVIII. To increaſe your inveſtment has always been, more or leſs, the endeavour of your Preſident and Council here; which, though it has ever been an object worthy of their attention, is not ſo much ſo now, as it was when that was the only baſis of your expectations of advantage from *Bengal*. In order to attain this end, from the beginning, great ſtrictneſs has been practiſed, and hardſhips impoſed on the weavers; which increaſing with the influence and power of the Honourable Company, it may, upon a very clear and moderate computation be now ſaid, that *there is not, throughout the country, near one half of the number of weavers there formerly was, even in the time of* Serajah al Dowlah: which muſt naturally and conſequentially occaſion the ſcarcity, dearneſs, and debaſement of the manufactures. So that by the regulations, prohibitions, and ſtrict orders which have been made and iſſued to obtain the * increaſe of this ſeaſon, the proviſion of the Honourable Company's inveſtment has now neceſſarily become a *monopoly, to the almoſt intire excluſion of others, excepting what is got by a few of your ſervants, higheſt in ſtation*, and by the foreign Companies. If the complaints of the foreign Companies, even admitting only half of their allegations, with thoſe of the *Armenian* Merchants and of the weavers themſelves, were not ſufficient to prove what I have advanced, I might appeal, for the truth of it, to every *European*, *Free-merchant*, and every *Moor*, *Hindoo*, *Armenian*, or other Merchant throughout the country, as well as to your own covenanted ſervants; a very few only of each of the above denominations being excepted; who, under the auſpicious favour of gentlemen in power, are generouſly freed from the great difficulties and obſtructions under which the reſt of the mercantile community labour. Inſomuch, that the goods provided in many of the Aurungs are pretty equally divided, one half thereof to the Honourable Company, and the other half to thoſe gentlemen in power, with their Banyans and dependants, whoſe ſuperior influence and ſtations protect their trade with advantages, of which no others can partake.

LXXIX. Among many other regulations, no Merchant is allowed to ſend a gomaſtah into the country to purchaſe cloth, or other goods, but with a perwânah from the Preſident; without which perwânah it is in vain to attempt to purchaſe, though they ſhould agree to pay double what is called *the Government Duties*. Among the Country-merchants, multitudes are perhaps unacquainted with this regulation; and many more are unable, from their ſituations, and a variety of circumſtances to obtain one. And in many places,

* In the following year Mr. *Verelſt* propoſed reducing the inveſtment to forty lacks. See *View* of *Bengal*, &c. *Appendix*, Page 119.

if

if obtained, it would be of no ſervice to the Merchants; † *Mutchulcahs* being taken from the weavers, whereby they are obligated to the Company's gomaſtahs, or thoſe who call themſelves ſuch in conſequence of the protection they receive, for the delivery at ſtipulated prices, of all the cloth they can make; for the receipt of which, peons are ſet to watch over them, to whom they are alſo generally obliged to pay an allowance called *Etlack*.

LXXX. The prices the weavers receive from thoſe gomaſtahs are in ſome places 15, in others 20, and in ſome even 30 *per cent. leſs than what the private country-traders, in this ſcarcity, would give, and actually do give, for what they can obtain by ſtealth.* For as the natives muſt have cloth for their own conſumption, the Country-merchants try every art to obtain it; and the weavers, allured by ſuperior prices, are not deficient in their endeavours to deliver it; by which it frequently happens, that when a piece of cloth is nearly finiſhed, the gomaſtah's peons cut it out of the looms, to prevent the weavers from privately diſpoſing of it elſewhere.

LXXXI. By the practice of theſe means, which was not formerly the caſe, numbers of weavers are daily quitting their country or their profeſſions: and the Country-merchants, who have already been deprived of the trade in ſalt, beetle-nut, and tobacco, are in this remaining branch alſo deprived of the means of obtaining a livelihood.

LXXXII. The evil conſequences of theſe grievances, and their future bad effects on your revenues and inveſtments, muſt be ſo obvious, that to gentlemen of your ſuperior penetration it would be needleſs to hint at them, or to recommend to your conſideration the neceſſity of ſpeedy remedies. Among theſe there ſeems none likely to ſucceed, but *the taking off all reſtrictions from, and giving every poſſible encouragement both to the weavers and merchants.* In that caſe, thoſe who have quitted their profeſſions would ſoon return to them, and many new hands might be acquired, which would, in all probability, at the end of twelve months reſtore the manufactories in ſuch a manner as would well repay the Honourable Company for the loſs ariſing from their putting themſelves, for one ſeaſon, or even for a continuance, *on a level with other purchaſers*; eſpecially as the influence of the Company, as Lords of the Country, would ſtill, *cæteris paribus*, give them the advantage over all others.

LXXXIII. Not to enumerate the many other advantages which would follow from the freedom of the manufactories, ſuch as the encouragement of the importation of bullion, now daily becoming ſcarce, and the preventing of continual diſputes with the other *European* Companies, it would alſo appear more conſiſtent with the dignity of the Company in their preſent double capacity, that, while they are receiving the rents from the manufacturers, they do not purſue ſuch methods as tend both to deprive them of the juſt profits of their labour, and to put it out of their power to pay thoſe rents. It may be farther ſaid, that upon the freedom of trade wholly depends the future proſperity of this country, which, without it, muſt neceſſarily dwindle to deſtruction; and that nothing elſe can, to the Country-merchants and natives, render *the* Engliſh *yoke*, as I muſt at preſent call it, ſupportable.—Which,

† Penal obligations in writing.

if

if not timely attended to, may hereafter enrage the natives to the ſame degree, as formerly actuated your own countrymen againſt the *Danes*.

LXXXIV. Thus have I, Honourable Sirs, with an humble freedom, dictated by duty to myſelf and to the community, and by gratitude to the Honourable Company, given you a juſt and impartial relation of facts relative to myſelf; informed you of ſundry evils to which the Public and the affairs of the Honourable Company are expoſed; and, with all due ſubmiſſion and deference, ſubmitted to your conſideration my own crude remarks on the methods of redreſſing thoſe evils; of preventing others, and of improving and inſuring the ſtability of the advantages which the Honourable Company have a right to expect.

LXXXV. Conſcious I have never given you any cauſe of complaint, either in or out of the ſervice, I hope the honourable motives I have proceeded upon will plead my excuſe for all irregularities and imperfections, and ſecure the good reception of my preſent Addreſs.

LXXXVI. With reſpect to the injuſtice with which I have been treated, I beg leave to refer you to the records of your Council, and the proceedings of your Secret Committee; which will ſpeak in my favour as much as I could wiſh, in ſpite of any cloak with which they may be diſguiſed. I am intirely at a loſs to account for it. Pride, violent prejudices, reſentments, private-perſonal-connections or intereſts; one, ſome, or all of them muſt have been the motives thereto; for I am ſure ſuch extraordinary proceedings can, conſiſtently with juſtice or reaſon, be aſcribed to no other origin. Neither could ſuch injuſtice have happened, but from an abuſe of authority; which has always been one principal ſource of many of the evils to which your affairs in *India* have been expoſed.——An abuſe which I am convinced has never met, nor ever will meet the ſanction of your Honourable Court, much leſs that of the Proprietors. Whatever may have been the ſecret motives of it, with a ſelf-approving conſcience, I can but hold the authors in the higheſt contempt, while, on my own part, I appeal to your Honourable Court for ſuch reprehenſion of the concerned as the caſe may appear to merit; and, on the part of the reſt of my fellow-ſubjects, for ſuch regulations as may in future guard them from meeting with the ſame kind of treatment.

LXXXVII. Since the tranſactions I complain of, the firſt opportunity that I have had of repreſenting them to your Honourable Court was *per* the *Lord Holland*, Captain *Nairne*, who was diſpatched a few days ago. I ſhould have forwarded my Addreſs to you by that ſhip, but I was in hopes of being able to proceed myſelf upon her, in conſequence of orders received from your Governor and Council here; but being diſappointed therein, the public diſpatches were cloſed too ſoon for me.

LXXXVIII. As I am not without apprehenſion for the ſafe arrival of this Addreſs, I have privately forwarded copies of it to my friends in *England*, to be preſented to you there, ſhould this hereafter not find it's way in the uſual channel from your Preſident and Council, to whom I ſhall deliver it; and I ſhall likewiſe take the farther precaution to forward copies thereof, regularly authenticated in the Honourable the Mayor's Court. I take this

particular caution, as I have already, in my own affairs, had inſtances of ſuch unlucky miſcarriages as make it neceſſary.

I am, with my moſt ardent wiſhes for the proſperity of the affairs of the Honourable Company, and with moſt profound reſpect,

Honourable Sirs,

Calcutta, 12*th Oct.* 1767 *. Your moſt obedient, and moſt devoted ſervant, (Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

NUM. XVIII.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to the Preſident and Council at* Calcutta. *Dated the* 18*th* October 1767.

To *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident, *&c.* Gentlemen of Council at *Fort William*.

GENTLEMEN,

I REQUEST you will be pleaſed to tranſmit the accompanying Addreſs to the Honourable the Court of Directors, by the next conveyance. It is partly in vindication of myſelf from the groundleſs and reproachful accuſations with which your Preſident has been pleaſed to charge me, through the channel of the Select Committee, and partly on other affairs, in which the intereſts of the Company are deeply concerned.

It is doubtleſs a hardy attempt for me, in the preſent ſituation of affairs, to make a public attack on the Preſident, when the majority of his Secret Committee and Council are alſo parties concerned. But a regard to my own character obliges me to it; and as I have on my ſide truth and facts, which are obſtinate, and ſcorn to bend, I dare, in this impolitic and uncuſtomary method, brave the invenomed ſhafts of future oppreſſion and injuſtice, which cannot in malignity exceed thoſe I have already unconcernedly ſuſtained.

As the majority of the Members ſitting at the Board are Gentlemen who have been but a ſhort time in this country, and are doubtleſs as much unacquainted with the political wiles and cuſtoms of Banyans (who have been the principal engines employed throughout the affairs concerning me) as they are unacquainted with that more eſſentially-requiſite, the country-language, they muſt have been expoſed to great impoſitions; and it is very probable they may have been miſled in theſe affairs by the artifice of a veteran, upon whoſe integrity they placed an implicit reliance: it is therefore but juſt, that I ſhould attribute the concurrence of ſome of thoſe gentlemen to their having been deceived.

If any explanations, or proofs, be required, upon any parts of my addreſs to the Honourable Court of Directors, upon intimation thereof from your Ho-

* It may be truly ſaid, that the events of time, ſince the writing of this memorial, have proved ſtriking comments on its contents.

nourable Board, I will readily deſcend to particulars, and, I hope, give every ſatisfaction that can be required.

I am, with reſpect,

Calcutta, 18*th Oct.* 1767.

GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

NUM. XIX.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to* Richard Becher *and* James Alexander, *Eſquires, at* Calcutta. *Dated the* 18*th* October 1767.

To *Richard Becher* and *James Alexander*, Eſquires.

GENTLEMEN,

THIS day I have ſent in, to the Board, an addreſs to the Honourable Court of Directors, in vindication of myſelf from the unjuſt acculations laid to my charge in the proceedings of the Select Committee; and as you, Gentlemen, are the only Members of the Board who are not, more or leſs, parties concerned, I can pretty well foreſee the treatment I am likely to meet with on this occaſion.

As you were not upon the ſpot during the tranſactions of which I complain, you muſt of neceſſity have formed your opinions from the partial proceedings of the Committee, and from the more partial repreſentations of thoſe in whoſe company you daily are. In this ſituation I am not a ſtranger to the malignant accounts with which your ears muſt have been continually tingling, and which, like water continually dropping upon a ſtone, muſt, no doubt, have made ſome impreſſion, and have diſpoſed you to believe every thing you have heard againſt me; eſpecially as you have heard nothing on the other ſide of the queſtion from me, who, depending upon the rectitude of my actions, have hitherto remained ſilent. From my addreſs to the Court of Directors you will be acquainted with every thing in which I have been concerned, on which the unjuſt ſentence of the Committee has been pronounced againſt me, unheard: "Hear all and then let juſtice hold the ſcale."

Do not think, gentlemen, that the intent of this addreſs is to ſue for favour; that I ſcorn. I ſpeak only to your conſciences as men of integrity, and to ſet you upon your guard againſt the artifices of many, combined againſt me, alone, without any reaſonable cauſe or other foundation than what is built upon their private intereſts, private perſonal connections and piques.

All I wiſh for is, from a principle of gratitude to the Company, that the partiality with which I may be treated, may not force me, in my own defence,

fence, to print and * publiſh to the world what may add to the national odium againſt the Company. I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Calcutta, 18*th Oct.* 1767.

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,
(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

NUM. XX.

EXTRACTS from the Proceedings of the Preſident and Council at a Conſultation held at Calcutta, *on the 5th of* November 1767.

At a Conſultation held at *Calcutta*, the 5th of *November* 1767.

Preſent, The Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident,
John Cartier,
Richard Becher,
James Alexander,
Claud Ruſſell,
William Alderſey,
Charles Floyer, and
Alexander Campbell, Eſquires.

THE preſident lays before the Board the following letters from Mr. *Bolts*, on which he requeſts their ſentiments, after they have peruſed his minute, which he delivers in upon the ſubject, *viz.*

An Addreſs from that Gentleman to the Court of Directors.
Ditto . . . . . to this Board.
Ditto . . . . . to the Honourable the Mayor's Court.
Ditto . . . . . to Meſſrs. *Becher* and *Alexander*.

† Mr. *Verelſt*'s Minute.

This Addreſs to the Honourable the Court of Directors which is now before you, is, in my opinion, the moſt convincing proof that could be brought of the propriety and neceſſity of the Committee's reſolution regarding Mr. *Bolts*. The miſrepreſentations and the falſehoods that fill this production appear too obvious to require being particularly pointed out. In regard to the invectives levelled againſt me, I flatter myſelf that *my principles, my character, and my conduct are too well known to the whole ſettlement* to give room for the leaſt belief of the truth of any one of them.

For my reaſons for bringing the complaints againſt *Nobekiſſen* before the Select Committee, I muſt beg leave to refer you to my minutes on that occaſion, which are entered upon the face of their ‡ proceedings.

* The Obſtinacy of the Courts of Directors, in vindicating or ſcreening the oppreſſions of their ſervants, and in adopting, and refining upon, the deſtructive ſyſtems of the year 1765, hath now twice forced the Writer to intrude upon the Public.

† See this Minute alſo in Mr. *Verelſt*'s Book. *Appendix*, Page 200.

‡ See Letter A, Pages 147, 148 and 149.

But as, amongſt the numerous falſities in Mr. *Bolts*'s letter, there happen to be two facts which he has artfully miſrepreſented and obſcured, I muſt intrude upon your patience whilſt I give a plain recital of them.

You may remember, Gentlemen, that in conſequence of the reſolutions of the Select Committee, *Ramnaut* was * delivered up to *the Government* to be made accountable for the numberleſs extortions and villainies he had been guilty of at *Maldah*, and other places within *the Government*'s juriſdiction.

Now Mr. *Bolts* aſſerts in his letter, that *Ramnaut*, during his confinement, had no demands made upon him, except for ſome ſalt, and for a parcel of boats which had been ſold him by me, upon very advantageous terms.

I allow *Ramnaut* did purchaſe theſe articles belonging to me, but that the terms on my part were advantageous, or that a ſingle demand was made upon him on my account during his confinement, I do moſt ſolemnly deny.

The caſe was as follows: *Ramnaut*, ſome time ſince, employed a relation of his to purchaſe, *under a feigned name*, a quantity of ſalt which I had conſigned to Mr. *Barwell* at *Maldah*. By the ſame method he bought, *of my Banyan*, a parcel of boats (which I had before purchaſed of Mr. *Burdett*) at a leſs price than I had given for them, though they were in a much better condition when I ſold than when I bought them. When the money for theſe articles was demanded, *Ramnaut* declared himſelf the purchaſer, but pleaded poverty, and claimed my protection, that he might be enabled to raiſe the money.

By this VILLAINOUS ARTIFICE, he was in hopes to have ſcreened himſelf from the power of *the Government*, and to have evaded reſtitution of the money he had extorted from the natives. But, on the contrary, it was my repeated requeſt to the Miniſters, that they would make him accountable for every rupee of his extortions from the unhappy people at *Maldah*, who had been ruined by his villainy; and I poſitively forbad any demands being made upon my account, until full and ample reſtitution had been obtained for the ſufferers.

Of the truth of this relation I call upon THE MINISTERS, upon MR. SYKES, (and I could name many others) to bear teſtimony. A teſtimony which muſt intirely overſet Mr. *Bolts*'s aſſertion, that *Ramnaut* was confined at the city upon account of the debt he owed me. Nay I can go ſtill farther: I can declare, upon honour, *that I have not yet received a ſingle rupee, or rupee's worth of the debt; nor will I receive any until all the unhappy ſufferers by*

* The minute here given is a faithful copy of Mr. *Verelſt*'s original minute. In the copy which Mr. *Verelſt* has given of it, in the Appendix to his Book, Page 200, he has made the above phraſe run, "*Ramnaut* was TO BE delivered up to the Government."—After the purpoſe for which *Ramnaut* was originally confined by the Committee in 1765 (*viz.* the extorting of evidence againſt Mr. *George Gray*) was ſerved, he was permitted to remain unmoleſted in *Calcutta*, as hath been related in CONSIDERATIONS, *&c.* Page 99. This is proved by the Select Committee proceedings of the 18th *April* 1767 (ſee A, Page 154) wherein he is ordered to be delivered over to *the Country-government*, to make good his extortions to the inhabitants of *Maldah*, in conſequence of a reſolution made by the Board on the 30th *December* 1765; which was then taken up afreſh, in order to get complete riddance of that injured and devoted victim. But the Reader will pleaſe to keep continually in his mind, that the cant expreſſion of THE GOVERNMENT, at this time, meant no other than the will and pleaſure of the Preſident and Select Committee of *Calcutta*.

Ramnaut's

Ramnaut's *extortions, whom I cannot too much compaſſionate,* are fully indemnified.

In regard to the queſtion which Mr. *Bolts* has put for me to *Ramnaut* about the *Dinagepore* Zemindars, he, as the author, can only anſwer it. That I am not, I ſolemnly declare. I never have had any concerns at *Dinagepore*; nor do I know that *Ramnaut* had any, except ſome extortions he was guilty of; and I very likely might have aſked, whether he had made reſtitution?

Another aſſertion of Mr. *Bolts*'s I cannot but reply to, in vindication of my character. He ſays, that when *Gocul Sonar* preferred his complaint at the general quarter-ſeſſions, in a petition to the grand jury, it is remarkable that I, the then Chief-juſtice upon the bench, put the paper into my pocket; and he aſſigns a reaſon that I declare never occurred to me. On the jury ſending the petition into the Court, it was as well my opinion, as that of the other gentlemen upon the bench, that it ought to be referred for trial to the Court of Zemindary, where all criminal caſes betwixt native and native, when no *Britiſh* life or property is concerned, have *uſually* been tried. It was, in conſequence of this opinion, referred to the Zemindar, whoſe proceedings thereupon have already been reported to you, and where the * infamy of the proſecution, ſo warmly eſpouſed by Mr. *Bolts*, plainly appears.

My opinion of this method of juſtice is not, as Mr. *Bolts* endeavours to inſinuate, particular in this inſtance; my ſentiments thereon ſtand recorded long ſince, upon the face of the conſultations.

I now leave it to you, Gentlemen, to take ſuch notice of this inſult upon the perſon and character of your Preſident, as you may deem neceſſary for the ſupport of his Government. I forbear giving my own opinion, as Mr. *Bolts* has already declared, that all the reſolutions againſt him have been formed intirely by me.

Fort William, 5th Nov. 1767. (Signed) HARRY VERELST.

Mr. *Ffloyer*'s Minute.

As Mr. *Bolts*, in his letter to the Court of Directors, has placed a part of my conduct in a falſe point of view, I think it a piece of juſtice due to my own reputation to lay before you, Gentlemen, the matter on which he treats, in its real light, leſt my Honourable Maſters ſhould deem me guilty of an impropriety of conduct, when I only *inadvertently committed a miſtake.*

In the month of *March* laſt, when I was the acting Juſtice and Zemindar, the Preſident delivered to me a complaint, which had been preferred to the grand jury at the quarter-ſeſſions, by one *Gocul Sonar*, againſt *Nobekiſſen*, and deſired me to inquire into it, as Zemindar. I did ſo. But on atteſting the depoſitions which had been taken by me, *I ſigned them as Juſtice of the Peace, inſtead of Zemindar.* I was not ſenſible of the miſtake until the next morning, when I acquainted the Preſident with it, and as a confirmation thereof, referred him to the *officers of the Cutcherry*, who were the only perſons made uſe of by me, during the whole courſe of the inquiry. My report

* Let the Reader peruſe the proceedings here referred to, A, Num. XXVI. Page 145, and then judge to whom infamy can be juſtly imputed.

to the President (which has been laid before this Board) and the records of the Court of Zemindary will, I hope, sufficiently evince, that I acted therein in the judicial capacity of Zemindar only, and *not as one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace.* But when I consider the tenor of Mr. *Bolts*'s conduct, I am not surprized to find him willing to support himself by every piece of artifice he can devise.

Every member of this Board who has acted in these two offices (which have generally centered in one person) must be sensible, that complaints are often made at the same instant, some of which require the exertion of a Zemindar's authority, and others are cognizable only by a Justice of the Peace. In such a situation, can a mistake be wondered at, and can any unprejudiced person, upon a review of these circumstances, conclude that I have been *intentionally* culpable?

I solemnly declare, *it was a mistake*, occasioned in the manner I have herein related, and I trust, that the Honourable the Court of Directors, *upon a consideration of Mr.* Bolts's *conduct*, will be inclined to *credit this declaration*, in preference to his * *insinuations.*

5th Nov. 1767. (Signed) CHARLES FFLOYER.

The several letters from Mr. *Bolts*, and the President's Minute, in reply to those parts of the above letters which relate to himself, being attentively considered, RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY, That we express *in the strongest terms* to the President, our *intire approbation of his conduct, in the whole course of the proceedings relative to Mr.* Bolts, *and the keenest resentment of this Board* at the insolent and libellous attack on his character and station, as well as the insult offered to our Authority and to this Government, from the factious attempt of an incendiary to sow the seeds of jealousy and distrust in our Council, to disturb the harmony and confidence that so HAPPILY SUBSISTS among the several Members of the Board, and to destroy *those blessings which the public confessedly enjoy under the* MILD AND UPRIGHT ADMINISTRATION OF OUR HONOURABLE GOVERNOR.

Resolved, That we support, with all our weight and influence, the just and necessary exercise of the Governor's authority, and the authority of this Board, for the preservation of peace, order, and tranquillity in this settlement, and throughout the Honourable Company's possessions in *Bengal*; and that we punish, to the utmost extent of our power, the unparalleled endeavours of Mr. *Bolts, to sap the foundation of all Government*, to subvert, by the *factious cry of liberty*, the principles of subordination, and to loosen all those sacred ties whereby men are united together in society.

Resolved, That our former orders to Mr. *Bolts* for proceeding to *England* shall be repeated, and that, in case of disobedience to, and contempt of our authority, *his person shall be* SEIZED, *and* FORCIBLY *sent home a* † PRISONER *in one of the ships of this season*; and lastly, it is

* *Bolts* did not insinuate. He instanced notorious facts, which he was ready to prove.

† Yet was this victim, whom they were forcibly banishing, to his absolute ruin, by an arbitrary exertion of illegal power, an actual judge by virtue of an *English* act of Parliament, not to be removed except for misconduct in office.

Resolved,

Reſolved, That the ſeveral letters written by Mr. *Bolts* ſhall be entered after this conſultation, and tranſmitted to the Honourable the Court of Directors, as the ſtrongeſt proof that can be exhibited of the *neceſſity* of the *meaſures* we have purſued for the ſupport of Government, and the moſt abſolute conviction to our Honourable Maſters, that unleſs they will vindicate their own authority, *as exerciſed in unavoidable acts, by their repreſentatives in* India, and aſſert the privileges of their Royal Charter, their Settlements and Government muſt infallibly be precipitated into anarchy and confuſion.

It is further agreed, That we fully expreſs our ſentiments on this important ſubject in our next advices to the Honourable the Court of Directors.

NUM. XXI.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to Mr. Secretary* Droz. *Dated* Calcutta, *the* 21*ſt of* November 1767.

To Mr. *Simeon Droz*, Secretary.

SIR,

YOUR letter of the 5th inſtant was only delivered at my houſe on the 19th. I am at a loſs to account for the diſtance of time between the date and the delivery of it, as I was lately in town; and am alſo ſurprized, that the Board ſhould have conſidered a full month, and yet have ordered an anſwer which, notwithſtanding my repeated requeſts in ſundry letters, ſtill contains nothing new, or of conſequence.

That it is "the opinion of the Board, that it is highly neceſſary to prevent my remaining in the country," is what the world and myſelf have long been acquainted with; the reaſons are groſsly palpable.

But to acquaint me, "That they are determined I ſhall not remain in *India*," when I have not yet appealed to them for a determination of that point, appears extraordinary and unneceſſary, more eſpecially as they have already been acquainted by me, that I only intend ſtaying till I can ſettle the affairs of my conſtituents and ſelf; which I hope to accompliſh by a period early in the next ſeaſon; or ſooner, if the Gentlemen of the Board will agree to the propoſals I have made them. I fear, therefore, you muſt have miſtaken the meaning of the Board; for certainly, it would appear ridiculous, if, *mutatis mutandis*, I was ſeriouſly to tell thoſe Gentlemen, that alſo I am determined, that a majority of thoſe Members, at preſent ſitting at the Board, ſhall not * remain in *Bengal*, or that I am determined to ſend them all home: the impropriety in either caſe would be the ſame, conſidering only the legality of the determination, as I ſhould certainly act againſt the laws, was I to carry ſuch reſolves into execution, without authority or reaſon.

* This expreſſion had an ironical relation to a report which prevailed, that the *Madraſ* gentlemen would be ordered back to their ſtations on the coaſt: a very proper meaſure, which afterwards took place.

But

But if what you have wrote to me was the ſerious reſolution of the Board, and they are determined to carry it into execution; be pleaſed to acquaint the Gentlemen of Council, that in caſe they be (unknown to me) authorized to the exertion of ſuch an act of force, and have reaſons which they think will render it both juſt and legal, without conſidering any part of what I have had the honour to repreſent to them, concerning my ſituation; in that caſe, on their ſending an order, ſigned by the Preſident and each Member of the Board, with force to back the execution of it, they ſhall, at any time they may intimate will be moſt convenient, have an opportunity of ſeizing me and my family, papers, and property: provided they will guaranty our perſons ſhall not be delivered over to the Nabob, or any of the Country-powers.

Though I have not been favoured with any anſwer to my firſt propoſal, yet, as I would give the Gentlemen of the Council every advantage, I have thus made them a ſecond. But pleaſe to acquaint them, that on my not hereafter receiving particular anſwers to my letters, and their not ſigning thoſe which are ſent me, I ſhall conſider it as a mark either of fear or evaſion, and ſhall, for the future, take no notice of any letters reſpecting the affairs concerning me, but ſuch as contain, firſt, particular anſwers to what I have written, and ſuch as are ſigned by the whole Board.

I am, SIR,

Calcutta, 21ſt May, 1767.

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

NUM. XXII.

EXTRACT of a General Letter to the Court of Directors, from the Preſident and Council at Bengal, per *Ship* Norfolk. *Dated* Calcutta, *the* 10*th* December 1767.

" Eighthly, Touching the Charter.

PAR. LXXV. WE are now come to a ſubject which calls for your moſt ſerious conſideration. It relates to the conduct of Mr. *William Bolts*, lately in your ſervice; and we think it proper to introduce it under this head, as it requires a full exertion of the privileges granted in the Royal Charter to you, and delegated to your Repreſentatives in *India*, to reſent in a proper manner the inſult given to our Government in the perſon of your Preſident, and the daring attempt, not only to leſſen our influence in the country, whereby your intereſts would infallibly ſuffer, but alſo to deſtroy that harmony which now ſo happily prevails in your Councils. Theſe purpoſes, ſo unnatural to a *Britiſh* ſubject who has acquired an opulent fortune in your ſervice, Mr. *Bolts* attempted to effect, by perſonal addreſſes to our Board

Board and *ſecret correſpondencies* carried on, through the means of *Armenian* agents at the Courts of *Sujah al Dowlah* and other Princes.

Par. LXXVI. We acquainted you in our laſt letter, that, in conſequence of the reſolution taken by the Select Committee regarding Mr. *Bolts*, we had ſent him poſitive orders to return to *Europe* this ſeaſon. Some time after we received a long letter from *Chinſurah*, at which place he frequently reſides for ſome time paſt, informing us, with much freedom of ſtyle, that *if we would take his concerns and thoſe of his conſtituents off his hands*, he would then comply with our directions. The inſolence of his reply not only induced us to repeat our orders, but, on his return to town, to forbid his quitting the colony until his time for his embarkation arrived. In defiance of which, he immediately withdrew from the Preſidency and *returned to* Chinſurah, *from* * *whence he ſent us a moſt inſulting letter*, reflecting on the characters of our Preſident and ſeveral of the Members of our Board. This was accompanied by a long addreſs to you, *the abſurdity and malice of which is too evident to require any ſtrictures from us*: we ſhall therefore forward it, without † remarks, a number in the packet. The meaſures we had recourſe to, on this occaſion, were theſe: firſt, unanimouſly to aſſure the Preſident, that we approved of the whole of his conduct, during the courſe of his proceedings, in regard to Mr. *Bolts*, and that we entertained the warmeſt reſentment againſt Mr. *Bolts* for preſuming upon ſo libellous and unjuſt an attack upon the character of our Governor: and, next, to determine on our repeating our *peremptory orders* for him to proceed to *Europe*, without delay; with which, if he refuſes to comply, we ſhall ſeize him by force, and ſend him priſoner on one of the ſhips of this ſeaſon. The expediency of fulfilling this reſolution becomes more evident, from the intelligence which we have ſince received, of his informing Monſ. *Gentil*, a *Frenchman*, at the Court of *Sujah al Dowlah*, by ‡ letter, that the Company's affairs in *Europe* were in the utmoſt confuſion, and that his ASSOCIATE, Mr. *Johnſtone*, as he terms him, would be appointed Governor here, on the part of his Majeſty. An atteſted copy of this letter appears on our conſultations, and the original is now in the hands of Colonel *Smith*. Several other letters to different people in power, at the *Hindoſtan* Courts, of this tendency, have been ſeen.

Par. LXXVII. The danger of ſuch proceedings is too apparent, and *muſt juſtify whatever method we purpoſe to rid the country of a man* who endeavours, by falſe reports and repreſentations, to leſſen the reſpect due to THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION, and to deſtroy the confidence now ſubſiſting between us and the powers of *Hindoſtan*.

Par. LXXVIII. For further particulars regarding the circumſtances beforementioned, we beg leave to refer you to the ſeveral papers and letters which are entered on the face of the conſultations, as marked off in the margin.

(1ſt *October*, 5th *November*, 23d ditto, and 10th *December*.)

Par. LXXIX. Having now repreſented fully to you the conduct of Mr. *Bolts*, we beg leave again to point out to you the neceſſity of having the

* The letter here referred to was delivered in *Calcutta*, perſonally, by the writer. Why this untruth is aſſerted, is therefore unaccountable.

† They were wiſe in ſo doing, as events have clearly proved.

‡ See this letter, E, Page 347.

extent of our authority indiſputably fixed, with regard to *ſending perſons home by force*, who will not comply with our orders. For if this power is not granted, and perſons are allowed to remain here, and ſet our Government at defiance with impunity; anarchy and confuſion muſt infallibly take place, and your influence in theſe parts, in the end, be totally ſubverted.

Par. LXXX. As Mr. *Bolts is an Alderman of the Mayor's Court*, we have duly adviſed the Court of *our intention to ſend him home* in one of the ſhips of this ſeaſon.

Num. XXIII.

EXTRACTS from the Proceedings of the Preſident and Council at Calcutta, *on the 4th of* May 1768; *containing Colonel* Smith's *Minute, and the further Reſolution of the Board for ſending* William Bolts *a Priſoner to* Europe.

COLONEL SMITH having peruſed the proceedings of the Select Committee, as well as the reſolutions of Council concerning Mr. *Bolts*, he now takes this firſt opportunity of expreſſing, in perſon to the Board, thoſe ſentiments which he wrote to the Select Committee, in his letter of *December* the 11th 1767.

It appears from the Conſultations of the 5th *November* 1767, that you determined to repeat the former orders, for Mr. *Bolts* to proceed to *England*; and that in caſe of diſobedience to thoſe orders, and contempt of your authority, that his perſon ſhould be ſeized, and ſent home priſoner in one of the ſhips of laſt ſeaſon.

I have carefully examined your records, in order to diſcover, if the poſterior conduct of Mr. *Bolts* had been ſuch, as to induce you to poſtpone or annul your former reſolution, which ſtands unrevoked and unexecuted.

It appears alſo, from the proceedings of the Select Committee,

That Mr. *Bolts*, even ſince this your reſolution of the 5th *November*, has been correſponding with the country-powers. This correſpondence is *wiſely* and expreſsly * *probibited* to individuals by the orders of our Honourable Maſters. If you had not already entered into a reſolution of ſending Mr. *Bolts* to *Europe*, moſt undoubtedly I would have made ſuch a motion. But when I read an unanimous decree of your Board, for taking ſuch meaſures on this occaſion, as appear abſolutely neceſſary for the public ſervice, I cannot but conjure you, Gentlemen, to ſupport the dignity of Government, by inforcing obedience to your own reſolutions: for ſhould we ſuffer Mr. *Bolts* with impunity to bid defiance to your authority, the conſequences are ſo very obvious, that to mention them is unneceſſary. I do therefore move, that the reſolution

* However convenient and lucrative to the Company's ruling ſervants, it hath been this wiſe prohibition which principally contributed to the ruin of *Bengal*: as the Reader will have been enabled to conceive, upon conſideration of our Chapter on the Political Syſtem of the Company and their Servants. It will be a ſufficient comment on this paragraph, to inform the candid Reader, that Colonel *Smith* was at the head of the Army ſtationed at *Illahabad*; with Shah Allum under his *protection*, and with the privilege of *correſponding with the Country-powers*.

of the 5th *November* 1767 ſhall be carried into execution; and in caſe of diſobedience to your orders, on the part of Mr. *Bolts*, that he ſhall poſitively be ſent priſoner to *Europe* on the firſt ſhip which ſhall be diſpatched from this Preſidency.

Fort William, *4th May* 1768. (Signed) RICHARD SMITH.

Reſolution of the Board.

The Board ſtill adhere to their former reſolution, of ſending Mr. *Bolts* to *England*.

It is therefore agreed and reſolved, That he ſhall be ſent to *Europe* by the firſt ſhip that is diſpatched this ſeaſon.

(Signed) HARRY VERELST,
RICHARD SMITH,
JAMES ALEXANDER,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
WILLIAM ALDERSEY,
CHARLES FFLOYER.

NUM. XXIV.

COPY of the Information of William Bolts, *preſented to the Grand Jury in* Calcutta, *on the 27th* May 1768.

Town of *Calcutta*, to wit.

To the Jurors of our Sovereign Lord the King for the Town and Diſtricts of *Calcutta*, now aſſembled.

The Information and Petition of *William Bolts*, Inhabitant and Houſeholder of the ſaid Town of *Calcutta*,

HUMBLY SHEWETH,

THAT your Petitioner is a freeman and loyal ſubject of *Great Britain*, who in the year 1759 entered into the ſervice of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies*, under covenants for five years; and by virtue of the authority aforeſaid came out to *Bengal*, where he faithfully ſerved the ſaid Company for a much longer term than he engaged for.

That having reſigned the ſaid Honourable Company's ſervice, he has ſince continued to reſide in *Calcutta* as a Merchant, in which profeſſion he has always had very weighty and conſiderable mercantile concerns, which he has ever tranſacted, as he humbly hopes, with honour to himſelf, with peace and ſatisfaction reſpecting the community, without infringement of the laws of his country, and without having ever acted contrary to the intereſts of the *Eaſt India* Company.

That your Petitioner has frequently, ſince his reſignation of the ſervice, had the honour of ſerving upon the Grand Juries, and of acting as one of his

Majeſty's Judges in the Honourable the Mayor's Court of this town, to which he was legally appointed by the Preſident and Council, and in which ſtation he has ſtill the honour to continue.

That he, your Petitioner, has recently received very poſitive and evident information, which he will ſupport by his own corporal oath and the oaths of good and lawful * witneſſes, that on or about the 4th of *May* inſtant, within the diſtricts of this town of *Calcutta*, one *Richard Smith*, at preſent reſiding within the juriſdiction aforeſaid, Colonel and Commander of the troops in the ſervice of the ſaid *Eaſt India* Company, with other perſons at preſent to your Petitioner unknown, did then and there aſſociate, and hold an illegal conſpiracy againſt the perſon of your ſaid Petitioner.

That the ſaid conſpirators then and there, againſt the peace of our Lord the King, his crown and dignity, againſt the form of the ſtatutes, and in open defiance of the charter granted the *Eaſt India* Company, but particularly in contempt of the great charter, the foundation of the liberties of our conſtitution, called the *Magna Charta*, whereby it is particularly ſtipulated, that no freeman ſhall be impriſoned, or diſſeized of his freehold or liberties, but by lawful judgment of his peers, or by the law of the land, did maliciouſly combine by force to ſeize and impriſon the body of your Petitioner, and to put him on board ſome ſhip, and ſend him beyond ſeas; which reſolution the ſaid conſpirators have agreed to, and reſolved among themſelves, in writing, to adhere to, and carry into execution.

That your Petitioner is therefore in fear of his life; or in caſe he ſhould eſcape with life upon the execution of ſuch an execrable plan, that he and his family are in danger of being ruined, with many other *Britiſh* ſubjects, who have intruſted their property in your Petitioner's hands, which, together with his own, will amount to upwards of one hundred and ten thouſand pounds ſterling, and which is what your Petitioner has actually under his management, in different parts of *India*, as his books will evince.

That your Petitioner is informed, that the principal conſpirator, *Richard Smith* aforeſaid, propoſes to quit *Calcutta*; and as the preſent ſeſſion is actually ſitting, and does not admit of time for application to a Juſtice of Peace, which in the preſent caſe this Petitioner is informed is unneceſſary; your Petitioner has therefore been adviſed to prefer his information to the unbiaſſed judgment of the Jurors now ſolemnly aſſembled.

Wherefore he, the ſaid humble Petitioner, ſolemnly conjures and calls upon you, the ſaid Jurors, by the ſacred oaths you have juſt taken, and by all the ſacred ties of divine and your country's laws, to take him and his family under your protection, and to purſue ſuch methods in his behalf as may ſecure his perſon and property from the ſaid inhuman and illegal acts, intended to be perpetrated againſt him by the ſaid conſpirator, *Richard Smith*, and his acceſſaries, that he and every one of them may be this ſeſſion jointly and ſeparately bound over to the peace, and, upon conviction, be obliged to give ſpe-

* The witneſſes of whom the Writer gave in a liſt to the Jury were, *Simeon Droz*, *Edward Baber*, *Shearman Bird*, *John Hogarth*, *Thomas Corſely Cook*, *Adam Dawſon*, *Edward Fenwick*, *John Dick*, *William Hollond*, *William Dumbleton*, *James Irwin*, *Charles Fſloyer*, *Samuel Lewis*, *Iſaac Eyrard*, *Henry Revell*, *James Anderſon*, and *Robert Jacombe*.

cial bail for their future good behaviour, with good ſecurities for the beforeſaid ſum of one hundred and ten thouſand pounds ſterling, and other damages, which may accrue to your Petitioner, ſhould he, the ſaid *Richard Smith*, illegally make uſe of the military force under his command, to carry into execution the atrocious reſolves of himſelf and acceſſaries.

And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, ſhall ever pray.

Calcutta Town-Hall, (Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.
the 27th May 1768.

NUM. XXV.

COPY of the Proceedings of the Bench of Juſtices, at a General Quarter-Seſſions of Oyer and Terminer held at Calcutta, *on the 27th of* May 1768, *with the Proteſt of the Grand Jury.*

At a General Quarter-ſeſſions of Oyer and Terminer held at *Calcutta*, the 27th day of *May* 1768, preſent,

The Honourable *Harry Verelſt*,
James Alexander,
Claud Ruſſell,
William Alderſey,
Charles Fflayer, Eſquires, Juſtices.

OPENED the Court in the uſual form.

The Sheriff delivers in his precept, with a liſt of Jurors impanelled.

Swore in the following Gentlemen to ſerve on the Grand Jury.

*	*F. M.*	Cornelius Goodwin, Foreman, ſworn,
*	*F. M.*	David Killican, ſworn,
*	*F. M.*	Matthew Miller, ſworn,
*	*F. M.*	George Lear, ſworn,
*	*C. S.*	John Reed, ſworn,
*	*F. M.*	John Levett, ſworn,
*	*F. M.*	Joſeph Cator, ſworn,
*	*C. S.*	Richard Barwell, ſworn,
*	*C. S.*	Ruſſell Skinner, ſworn,
	C. S.	Robert Maddiſon, ſworn,
	C. S.	George Hurſt, ſworn,
	C. S.	Charles Lloyd, ſworn,
	C. S.	Harry Palmer, ſworn,
	C. S.	James Keighly, ſworn,
	C. S.	William Luſhington, ſworn,
	F. M.	Thomas Motte, ſworn,
	C. S.	William Byam Martin, ſworn.

N. B. Thoſe marked *F. M.* were Free-merchants; thoſe *C. S.* Company's Servants; and thoſe with an aſteriſm were the Mayor and Aldermen of *Calcutta*.

The lines printed in Roman character contain the whole of the real proceedings; thoſe printed in Italics were added afterwards in private.

Mr.

Mr. *William Bolts*, attended by Mr. *George Lear*, one of the Gentlemen of the Grand Jury, comes into Court to be ſworn.

Mr. *Bolts*, being duly ſworn, withdrew.

Mr. *George Lear* comes into Court, calls Mr. *Simeon Droz*, the Sheriff, from the Bench, *and without aſking permiſſion of the Juſtices, or informing Mr.* Droz *what he was* to be ſworn *to*, deſires the Clerk of the Peace to adminiſter an oath to him.

The Court thereupon obſerved to Mr. *Lear*, that calling on one of the officers of the Court, who was then upon duty, in ſo ſudden a manner, without having obtained their leave, or given him any previous notice, or informing him what he was to be ſworn to, was a very improper method of proceeding: and unleſs the affair was of very material conſequence, and his evidence immediately neceſſary, they deſired it might be diſpenſed with.

Mr. *Lear* then withdrew; and ſoon after returned, to deſire Mr. *Edward Baber*, Clerk of the Peace, might be ſworn: *but as the ſame reaſons ſubſiſt againſt his being called, in ſo ſudden and improper a manner*, the Court deſire his evidence may alſo be diſpenſed with, unleſs the buſineſs is very material.

Mr. *Lear* again withdrew; and ſome time afterwards returned into Court with Meſſrs. *William Dumbleton* and *Shearman Bird*, to deſire they might be ſworn.

The Court then informed Mr. *Lear*, that they could not but remark, that in the perſons of the Sheriff, Clerk of the Peace, Meſſrs. *Dumbleton* and *Bird*, he had called upon the Secretary, Aſſiſtant Secretary, and Aſſiſtants to the Preſident and Council of *Fort William*, in their Secretary's office: That the two latter were young perſons, barely turned of ſixteen years of age, who were intruſted with the knowledge of the records and proceedings of the Governor and Council, from it's being their duty to tranſcribe them, and which they were bound to keep ſecret, under penalty of forfeiting the Company's ſervice: That if Mr. *Bolts* had called upon theſe young perſons as witneſſes, in order to make them diſcloſe the proceedings of the Governor and Council, they cannot but object to young perſons being called upon in ſo unprepared a manner *(bound as they are to the truſt repoſed in them) to give their evidences upon a matter which the Court do not conceive concerns the peace or welfare of any of his Majeſty's ſubjects, and which might be the means of theſe young perſons betraying of circumſtances they are in duty bound not to divulge; whereby they muſt either perjure themſelves, or forfeit their fidelity to the Company. But the Court deſire Mr.* Lear *to inform the Grand Jury, that if they have any proceedings to lay before them, regarding the life or property of any of his Majeſty's ſubjects, which they may deem neceſſary to take information upon, they can have no objection to their examining any evidences they have or may call upon, provided they are ſubpœnaed in a regular and proper manner: and to afford the Jury an opportunity of doing this, the Court will adjourn to ſuch a time as the Jury may judge neceſſary to take the information.* Mr. *Lear* withdrew, and the Gentlemen of the Grand Jury ſoon after came into Court, with an addreſs to the Bench. *In reply to the addreſs, the Court acquainted the Jurors, that they could not but object to youths intruſted with the minute circumſtances of this Government, bound to ſecrecy by oaths or heavy puniſhments, being immediately called upon to give their evidence,*

evidence, poſſibly regarding the truſt repoſed in them, without the Court's knowing whether the inquiſitions related to a breach of peace, or any crime whatever; for no informations therein had been laid before any Juſtice of the Peace, or the Court: That if the matter under their conſideration tended only to a preſentment, the Court is of opinion, that the information of one perſon, if of good character, is ſufficient for them to found a preſentment on.

The Jurors then * *deſired* to reconſider their addreſs, and accordingly retired.

The Jurors returned into Court with the ſame addreſs, which was read, as follows:

"The Grand Jury impanelled and ſworn at a quarter-ſeſſions, held this 27th day of *May* 1768, in the town of *Calcutta*, take this method to acquaint the Honourable Juſtices of the Peace now ſitting, that an information has been laid before them, on oath, by *William Bolts*, inhabitant of *Calcutta*, whereupon the Grand Jury ſummoned two witneſſes, named in the information, in order to their being examined; one of whom being the Sheriff, and the other the Clerk of the Peace, the Bench of Juſtices thought proper to refuſe their attendance on the Grand Jury: whereupon other witneſſes were ſummoned, by an officer of the Court, as the Grand Jury conceive, in the uſual manner, which the Bench of Juſtices were pleaſed to diſapprove of, as the Grand Jury underſtood, by a meſſage from the Bench, delivered to them by Mr. *George Lear*, one of their body; who alſo delivered farther, that the Bench were of opinion, that the Grand Jury ſeemed to aim at aſſuming a power ſuperior to the Government. The Grand Jury are deeply concerned to find, that their endeavours to acquit themſelves of their duty, as bound by their oaths, ſhould have brought ſo ſevere a reflection from the Bench, which they are not conſcious of having deſerved; and they will venture to ſay, that no Grand Jury was ever better diſpoſed to the Government than the preſent. In caſe the Bench perſevere in their reſolution, of not permitting the Grand Jury to examine witneſſes, upon oath, touching the ſaid information, and refuſe to ſwear in ſuch witneſſes, the Grand Jury have no other method of proceeding left (as without the examination of witneſſes they cannot collect the opinions of the Jurors) but to deliver in the ſaid information to the Bench of Juſtices, with this addreſs, who will then be anſwerable for the conſequences.

(Signed) CORNELIUS GOODWIN, Foreman."

Upon which the Court acquainted the Jurors their preſentment was really a miſrepreſentation of facts: That they had not refuſed them the liberty of taking ſuch informations as they might deem neceſſary, but objected to the manner in which the ſeveral perſons had been ſummoned: That if the buſineſs the Jurors had under conſideration tended only to a preſentment, the Court repeat their opinion, that the information of one perſon, if of good character, was ſufficient for them to found a preſentment on; but if the matter before them tended only to an indictment, the Court would adjourn, to afford them an opportunity of having ſuch perſons as they might deem neceſſary to call

* *The Jurors did not deſire, but were deſired by the Court.*

upon

upon to give their evidence, regularly ſubpœnaed, agreeably to what the Court had charged Mr. *Lear*, one of the Jurors, to inform them of.

The Jurors appearing ignorant of this information,

The Court called upon Mr. *Lear* to declare, whether he was not ſo charged from the Court, and whether he had delivered ſuch charge to the Jury?

Mr. *Lear* * replies, *he did not deliver ſuch charge, having miſunderſtood the Court.*

The Court then deſired the Jurors to reconſider, whether they would ſubpœna ſuch perſons as they might think neceſſary, and proceed to take their informations: the Court being willing, as the day was far advanced, to give them an opportunity for ſo doing, by adjourning.

The Court deſire the Jurors will be aſſured, that their attachment to the preſent Government is no way queſtioned; but on the contrary, they entertain the moſt favourable opinion of the ſeveral Members who compoſe the Jury: That the Court cannot but conſider, that if the proceedings of the Jury this day were to become a precedent, future Juries, who it is poſſible may be affected with leſs zeal, may at pleaſure, under various pretences, ſcrutinize into the moſt important tranſactions of Government, the evil conſequence of which muſt be too apparent to need any elucidation.

The Jurors *informed the Court, that any farther proceeding on the matter before them was unneceſſary.*

Being aſked by the Court, if they had any farther buſineſs for them, they ſaid they had none.

The Jury were then diſmiſſed, with thanks for their ſervices, and

The ſeſſions adjourned until the 27th of *Auguſt*, on a freſh ſummons.

A true Copy.

(Signed) EDWARD BABER, Clerk of the Peace.

NUM. XXVI.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Preſident and Council at Calcutta. *Dated the* 30*th* May 1768; *relative to Mr.* Edward Fenwick.

THE Preſident laid before the Board, then ſitting, a preſentment made by Mr. *William Bolts* to the Grand Jury, and which was delivered to the Bench of Juſtices at the laſt quarter-ſeſſions; accompanied with a letter from Mr. *Fenwick*, confeſſing that he had furniſhed Mr. *Bolts* with an extract from the Conſultations of the fourth of *May* regarding him, and which is recorded in the preſentment.

Mr. *Fenwick* being called before the Board, to aſſign his reaſons for this extraordinary conduct, was aſked—What induced him to be guilty of ſo great a

* *Mr.* Lear *replied, that no ſuch charge was given by him to the Jury, becauſe he did not hear ſuch a meſſage from the Bench.*

breach

breach of his duty, which he himſelf had confeſſed, in furniſhing Mr. *Bolts* with an extract from the Conſultations? to which he replied, that in a converſation he had with Mr. *Bolts*, he mentioned to him, that he was to be ſent home in the firſt ſhip of the next ſeaſon, and Mr. *Bolts* deſired he would give him a copy of the Board's proceedings regarding him, which he accordingly did, as he did not imagine he was acting wrong in doing ſo. He was then aſked, if he had not ſeen the Board's orders which are in the public office, prohibiting any of the ſervants from diſcloſing their records, under pain of *ſuſpenſion*? to which he replied, he did not pay particular attention to them. Mr. *Fenwick* then withdrew.

The Board taking into conſideration the nature of the offence, were of opinion, that Mr. *Fenwick*, from his having been *guilty of a breach of public faith*, in betraying the records of this Board, and having acted in direct oppoſition to their poſitive orders, is unworthy to continue in the Company's ſervice; and ſhould be diſmiſſed, not only as a puniſhment due to his crime, but in order to deter others from being guilty of the like offence.

Agreed therefore, That he be diſmiſſed the ſervice, and ordered to prepare to go to *Europe* by the next ſhip: And, *Ordered*, That the Secretary acquaint Mr. *Fenwick* of this reſolution; as alſo the * Buxey, that his name may be ſtruck off the Company's liſt of ſervants intitled to draw pay from his office.

NUM. XXVII.

COPY of a Letter from Mr. Secretary Droz *to Mr.* Edward Fenwick. *Dated* Calcutta, *the* 30*th* May 1768.

To Mr. *Edward Fenwick.*

SIR,

A CHARGE having been laid againſt you, of having taken and divulged extracts of the proceedings of Council, particularly of thoſe of the 4th *May*, which, by letter to the Preſident, and afterwards in perſon before the Board, you have confeſſed to be true; I am directed by them to acquaint you, that they deem a perſon who wilfully acts in direct violation of the eſtabliſhed rules, who is capable of betraying his truſt, and of forfeiting his duty to the Company, to be unworthy of a continuation in their ſervice: that they therefore have unanimouſly diſmiſſed you, and have ordered me to tranſmit you their directions for your proceeding to *Europe* by one of the returning ſhips of this ſeaſon.

I am, SIR,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

Fort William, *the* 30*th May* 1768.

(Signed) SIMEON DROZ, Secretary.

* Paymaſter.

NUM. XXVIII.

COPY of the Proteſt, on Behalf of William Bolts, *againſt the Preſident and Council of* Calcutta, *in* Bengal; *ſerved on them, aſſembled in Council, and recorded on their Conſultations of the* 15th Auguſt 1768.

ON the 28th day of *July*, in the year of our Lord 1768, *William Bolts*, of *Calcutta*, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal*, Merchant, and one of the Aldermen of the Honourable the Mayor's Court at *Calcutta* aforeſaid, formerly in the ſervice of the Honourable Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies*, appeared before me, *John Holme*, *Notary Public*, *&c.* and declared, that he, the ſaid *William Bolts*, having received poſitive intelligence, that one *Richard Smith*, Colonel and Commander of the troops in the ſervice of the aboveſaid Honourable *Engliſh Eaſt India* Company, together with ſundry other evil-minded perſons, then unknown, did, at a certain time and place, aſſociate, and hold an illegal conſpiracy againſt the perſon of him, the ſaid *William Bolts*; to ſeize and impriſon him, and to force him on board ſome ſhip, and tranſport him beyond ſeas: and whereas, by the King's Moſt Excellent Majeſty, by and with the advice and conſent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons in Parliament aſſembled, and by the authority thereof, it hath been enacted, particularly by an Act, *anno triceſimo primo* Caroli *Secundi Regis*, intituled, An Act for the better ſecuring the Liberty of the Subject, and for the Prevention of illegal Impriſonments, beyond the Seas, that "no ſubject of the realm ſhall or may be ſent priſoner into any parts, garriſons, iſlands, or places beyond the ſeas, which are, or at any time ſhall be, within or without the dominions of his Majeſty, his heirs, or ſucceſſors; and that every ſuch impriſonment is thereby enacted and adjudged to be illegal; and that if any of the ſaid ſubjects ſhould be ſo impriſoned, every ſuch perſon and perſons ſhall and may, for every ſuch impriſonment, maintain, by virtue of the ſaid Act, an action or actions of falſe impriſonment, in any of his Majeſty's Courts of Record, againſt the perſon or perſons by whom he or ſhe ſhall be ſo committed, detained, impriſoned, ſent priſoner, or tranſported, contrary to the true meaning of this Act, and againſt all or any perſon or perſons that ſhall frame, contrive, write, ſeal, or counterſign any warrant or writing for ſuch commitments, detainer, impriſonment, or tranſportation; or ſhall be adviſing, aiding, or aſſiſting in the ſame, or any of them; and the plaintiff, in every ſuch action, ſhall have judgment to recover his treble coſts, beſides damages; in which action no delay, ſtay, or ſtop of proceeding, by rule, order, or command; nor no injunction, protection, or privilege whatſoever, nor any more than one imparlance ſhall be allowed, excepting by rule of the Court wherein the action ſhall depend, made in the open Court, as ſhall be thought in juſtice neceſſary, for ſpecial cauſe, to be expreſſed in the ſaid rule: and the perſon or perſons who ſhall knowingly frame, contrive, write, ſeal, or counterſign any warrant or writing for ſuch commitment, detainer, or

tranſportation, or ſhall ſo commit, detain, impriſon, or tranſport any perſon or perſons, contrary to this Act, or be any way adviſing, aiding, or aſſiſting therein, being lawfully convicted thereof, ſhall be diſabled, from thenceforth, from bearing any office, truſt, or profit, within the ſaid realm of *England*, or any of the iſlands, territories, or dominions thereunto belonging; and ſhall incur and ſuſtain the pains, penalties, and forfeitures limited, ordained, and provided in and by the ſtatute of proviſion and *præmunire*, made in *the 16th year of King* Richard *the Second*, and be incapable of any *pardon from the King, his heirs, or ſucceſſors*, of the ſaid forfeitures, loſſes, and diſabilities, or any of them:"

Therefore the ſaid *William Bolts*, for the ſecurity of his perſon, family, and effects, againſt the wicked intentions of the beforeſaid *Richard Smith* and his acceſſaries, did preſent his information to the Grand Jury, impanelled at the general quarter-ſeſſions of oyer and terminer, held at *Calcutta*, the 27th day of *May* 1768, preſent, *Harry Verelſt*, *James Alexander*, *Claud Ruſſell*, *William Alderſey*, and *Charles Ffloyer*, Eſquires, Juſtices of the Peace: whereupon the Grand Jury did proceed to take the depoſitions of the witneſſes, but were therein prevented by the ſaid Juſtices, who refuſed to let the witneſſes be ſworn, upon ſeveral frivolous pretences, but particularly alleging, that the witneſſes were not regularly ſubpœnaed, and expecting, or pretending to expect, that the Grand Jury would ſubpœna them: whereupon the Grand Jury did proteſt againſt the ſaid Juſtices, and thereby a ſtop was put to the proceedings; the complaint of him, the ſaid *William Bolts*, being quaſhed, and he left without remedy: all which will more fully appear by the annexed papers, ſaid to be a copy of the proceedings at the ſaid general quarter-ſeſſions; and, as ſuch, underſigned by the then Clerk of the Peace, Mr. *Edward Baber*. And whereas he, *William Bolts*, is informed, that it was never eſteemed the buſineſs of a Grand Jury to iſſue writs of ſubpœna; but that if any ſuch formality was requiſite, that it was the buſineſs of the ſaid Juſtices, who were ſitting without any other buſineſs, from the hours of eight in the morning to one in the afternoon, or thereabouts, and might in one hour have iſſued the ſubpœnas, if requiſite: And whereas he, *William Bolts*, is informed, that the other pretexts and facts alleged in the ſaid proceedings, are frivolous, contrary to equity, cuſtom, and truth; whereby a very unprecedented and pernicious ſtop was put to the due courſe of public juſtice, in a proceſs of the moſt ſacred nature: And whereas he, *William Bolts*, hath diſcovered, and will prove, that the ſaid Juſtices, *Harry Verelſt*, *James Alexander*, *Claud Ruſſell*, *William Alderſey*, and *Charles Ffloyer*, Eſquires, were acceſſaries and parties concerned with the beforeſaid *Richard Smith*, in the wicked reſolution of breaking the laws, in the conſpiracy againſt the perſon of him, the ſaid *William Bolts*, to deprive him of his liberty, and in conſequence of his eſtate and effects; and that the ſaid Juſtices, being parties concerned in that guilt, that was their principal motive for obſtructing the due courſe of public juſtice, which occaſioned the proteſt of the Grand Jury aforeſaid: And whereas the ſaid Juſtices are alſo Members of the Council for the affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies*, at *Fort William*; and have heretofore alſo aſſociated with others in that capacity,

to deprive him, *William Bolts*, of protection; he, *William Bolts*, therefore believes, and is perſuaded, that one other motive for the ſaid obſtruction of juſtice on the part of the ſaid Juſtices was, the reſolution they had heretofore taken to deprive him, *William Bolts*, of the protection of the laws of his country; there being no other Judges, or Juſtices of the Peace, but the ſaid Members of Council, within the diſtricts of the ſaid town of *Calcutta*: And whereas he, *William Bolts*, hath alſo received poſitive and evident information, that ſundry other perſons have, at various times, been alſo acceſſaries concerned with the beforeſaid Juſtices and Members of the Council at *Fort William*, in illegal aſſociations againſt the perſon of him, the ſaid *William Bolts*, to deprive him of his liberty, and in conſequence of his eſtate and effects, particularly *John Cartier* and *Richard Becher*, Eſquires, likewiſe Members of the ſaid Council at *Fort William*, and Juſtices of the Peace, with *Alexander Campbell*, Eſq; late of *Calcutta*, of the ſaid Council, and ſundry other perſons, who, in the characters of Secretaries, Clerks, or otherwiſe, have been aiding, adviſing, abetting, or aſſiſting in framing, contriving, writing, ſealing, or counterſigning the reſolutions of the ſaid unlawful conſpirators, for the impriſonment, detainer, or tranſportation of him, the ſaid *William Bolts*: And whereas there are not in *Calcutta* any Juſtices of the Peace to whom he, *William Bolts*, can apply, except the ſaid *Harry Verelſt*, *John Cartier*, *Richard Becher*, *James Alexander*, *Claud Ruſſell*, *William Alderſey*, and *Charles Ffloyer*, Eſquires, who are all acceſſaries to the crime complained of, and, inſtead of keeping the Peace, have, contrary to their duty, wickedly reſolved to become the peace-breakers, whereby he, *William Bolts*, is left without remedy, the ſaid conſpirators having alſo under their orders the military force of the ſaid Honourable *Eaſt India* Company; which, for want of proper controul for the ſecurity of the ſubject, they are accuſtomed to make uſe of in the execution of ſimilar acts of oppreſſion: And whereas he, *William Bolts*, does conceive, that the illegal and malicious proceedings againſt him, of ſome or all of the ſaid conſpirators in theſe double capacities, has been occaſioned by a jealouſy and competition in trade; by his having endeavoured to obtain juſtice for injured perſons, contrary to the intereſts of ſome of them; and by his having expoſed to the Honourable the Court of *Eaſt India* Directors their miſmanagement and wicked conduct in general; the ſaid *William Bolts* did therefore farther declare, that he conceives the ſaid proceedings of the ſaid conſpirators, their aſſociations againſt his perſon, family, and effects, and of the ſaid Juſtices of the Peace, are contrary to law, equity, and good conſcience, and are oppreſſions of the moſt grievous and malicious nature.

That therefore he, *William Bolts*, did requeſt me to proteſt againſt the ſaid conſpirators, all and every one of them, for their ſaid illegal tranſactions, and againſt every other perſon or perſons whatſoever, who may be hereafter diſcovered to have been any ways aiding or abetting; but particularly to proteſt againſt the ſaid Juſtices, *Harry Verelſt*, *James Alexander*, *Claud Ruſſell*, *William Alderſey*, and *Charles Ffloyer*, Eſquires, for their obſtruction of the due courſe of juſtice, as aforeſaid, that they may be anſwerable ſeparately, in their judiciary capacities, for all evil conſequences that may thereby accrue to him, *William Bolts*, ſhould the ſaid *Richard Smith*, Colonel and Commander in the

East India Company's ſervice aforeſaid, his aeceſſaries, or any other perſon or perſons whatſoever, not herein mentioned, carry into execution the reſolutions aforeſaid againſt the ſaid *William Bolts*; and againſt all Captains military and naval, all Commanders or Officers of ſhips, and all and every other perſon or perſons whomſoever, who ſhall or may be aiding or aſſiſting in executing the orders againſt him, the ſaid *William Bolts*, or in taking, receiving, or putting him, the ſaid *William Bolts*, on board any ſhip or veſſel in purſuance thereof; that they may be anſwerable for the capital engaged by him, *William Bolts*, in trade, throughout all *India*, or elſewhere, together with all profits that have on the ſame ariſen, or might in the common courſe of things be expected to ariſe, under the perſonal management of him, *William Bolts*; alſo for all his poſſeſſions in houſes, furniture, jewels, dead and live ſtock, and all outſtanding debts and balances due to him, or that may become due to him, as the ſame do, or hereafter may, ſtand upon the books of him, the ſaid *William Bolts*; alſo for all loſſes that may to him accrue from the non-performance of contracts, failures, or bankruptcies of debtors, embezzlements, loſſes (during his abſence) of goods and chattels, or books and papers, by land or by water, from fire, thieves, or any other accidents whatever; alſo for all loſſes ariſing from proſecutions that may be iſſued out againſt him or his effects; charges at law, and alſo the damages which, from ſuch proſecutions, may ariſe by the conſequent loſs of his reputation and credit as a merchant; alſo for all damages which may accrue to him, *William Bolts*, from his being a Judge in his Majeſty's Court of Record, called the Honourable the Mayor's Court, of *Calcutta*: in ſhort, for all loſſes, damages, penalties, forfeitures, which the law may decree, on any account herein expreſſed, or on any cauſe that may hereafter ariſe in conſequence thereof, in any of his Majeſty's Courts, civil or eccleſiaſtical, in as full and ample a manner as if they were all herein particularly expreſſed.

Wherefore I, the ſaid Notary, at the requeſt aforeſaid, have proteſted, and by theſe preſents do proteſt, againſt the ſaid Colonel *Richard Smith*, and all and every perſon or perſons whomſoever concerned with him, for his and their illegal tranſactions aforeſaid; and againſt all and every other perſon and perſons whomſoever, who may be hereafter diſcovered to have been any ways aiding or abetting, and againſt the ſaid Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; *John Cartier*, Eſq; *Richard Becher*, Eſq; *James Alexander*, Eſq; *Claud Ruſſell*, Eſq; *William Alderſey*, Eſq; and *Charles Ffloyer*, Eſq; and all others concerned with them, and every or any of them, for their obſtruction of the due courſe of juſtice, as aforeſaid, that they may be anſwerable ſeparately, in their judiciary capacities, for all evil conſequences that may thereby accrue to him, the ſaid *William Bolts*, ſhould the ſaid *Richard Smith*, Colonel and Commander in the *East India* Company's ſervice aforeſaid, or his, the ſaid *Richard Smith*'s, accomplices, or any of them, or any other perſon or perſons whomſoever, not therein mentioned, carry into execution the reſolutions aforeſaid, againſt the ſaid *William Bolts*; and alſo againſt all Captains military and naval, all Commanders and Officers of ſhips, and all and every other perſon and perſons whomſoever, who ſhall or may be aiding and aſſiſting in executing the orders againſt him, the ſaid *William Bolts*; or in taking, receiving, or putting the

ſaid

ſaid *William Bolts* on board any ſhip or veſſel, in purſuance thereof; that they may be anſwerable for the capital engaged by him, the ſaid *William Bolts*, in trade, throughout all *India*, or elſewhere, together with all profits that have on the ſame ariſen, or might in the common courſe of things be expected to ariſe, under the perſonal management of him, the ſaid *William Bolts*; alſo for all his the ſaid *William Bolts* his poſſeſſions, in houſes, furniture, jewels, dead and live ſtock, and all outſtanding debts and balances due to him, or that may become due to him, as the ſame do or hereafter may ſtand upon the books of him, the ſaid *William Bolts*; alſo for all loſſes and damages accrued to him, the ſaid *William Bolts*, for the non-performance of contracts, failures, bankruptcies, or running away of debtors, embezzlements, loſs (during his abſence) of goods and chattels, or books and papers, by land or by water, from fire, thieves, or any accident whatſoever; alſo for all loſs and damages ariſing from proſecutions that may be iſſued out againſt him, the ſaid *William Bolts*, or his effects, charges at law, *&c.* alſo for all loſs and damages which may accrue to his family, wife, and ſervants, during his abſence; alſo for all loſs and damages that may accrue to him, the ſaid *William Bolts*, from his being one of the Judges of his Majeſty's Court of Record, the Honourable the Mayor's Court of *Calcutta*, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal*; alſo for all loſſes, damages, penalties, or forfeitures, which the law may decree, on any account herein expreſſed, or any cauſe that may hereafter ariſe in conſequence thereof, in any of his Majeſty's Courts, civil or eccleſiaſtical, in as full and ample a manner as if they were all herein particularly expreſſed; and alſo for all loſs, damages, coſts, charges, and expences, already had, ſuffered, ſuſtained, accrued, or happened, or which hereafter ſhall or may be had, ſuffered, ſuſtained, or which hereafter ſhall or may accrue or happen, to him, the ſaid *William Bolts*, by the means aforeſaid.

Thus done and proteſted, *&c. &c.*

(Signed) JOHN HOLME, Not. Pub.

L. S.

NUM. XXIX.

EXTRACT * *from the Proceedings of Preſident* Vereliſt *and the Council at* Calcutta, *on the* 26*th* Auguſt 1768.

THE Preſident acquainted the Board, as a farther proof of the miſconduct of Mr. *Bolts*, that Mr. *Baber*, when Sub-Secretary, had reported to him, that Mr. *Bolts*, inſtead of duly executing the covenants ſent out by

* *Vereliſt*'s Appendix, Page 209.

the

the Company, prohibiting any of their ſervants receiving preſents, did eſude their orders, and inſtead of executing them himſelf, employed a Writer to ſign his name for him, who was alſo one of the ſubſcribing witneſſes to the deed.

The Board calling upon Mr. *Baber* to give his information on this point, he acquainted them as follows:—" When I was Sub-Secretary, Mr. *Bolts* came to me, at the Secretary's office, in the Council-houſe; and after telling me he had ſomething of importance to ſay to me, he took me aſide, and aſked me, " if I could let him ſee his covenants ſent out by the Company, prohibiting their ſervants accepting preſents;" to which I replied I could. He then deſired me to go into a room where there were not any gentlemen writing. I took him into the Council-room, and after ſhewing him his covenants, he requeſted me, in the moſt earneſt manner, " to execute them afreſh," alleging, as a reaſon for making this requeſt, " that the ſigning was not his own, but his Writer's; and this circumſtance was known to Mr. *Sage*, who he was apprehenſive would make it public." I told him, " it was not in my power to grant him ſuch a requeſt," and peremptorily refuſed him. After this denial, he then requeſted " I would keep this matter a profound ſecret:" I told him " as long as I could do it conſiſtently with my duty to my Employers, I would; but if it ſhould ever be of conſequence to diſcloſe this matter, I muſt look upon this promiſe to be void."

The Board agreed, that a copy of the above information be ſent to Mr. *Holme*, Regiſter of the Mayor's Court; and that he be requeſted to draw it out in a proper manner, that the ſame, with a regular ſummons, may be ſerved on Mr. *Bolts*; and his attendance at the Board required, on *Monday* the 5th *September* next, to anſwer to this charge.

Meſſrs. *Baber* and *Boughton* ſeverally ſent in a letter, acquainting the Board, that Mr. *Bolts* had entered a proſecution againſt them in the Mayor's Court; againſt the former, as Clerk of the Peace, for having, as he alleged, ſent him a falſe copy of the proceedings of the * quarter-ſeſſions, of the 27th *May* laſt; and againſt the latter, as Aſſiſtant Secretary to the Select Committee, for ſigning and publiſhing a ſcandalous, defamatory, and libellous paper againſt him, dated the 18th *April* 1767, which, in fact, was nothing more than his atteſting, as Secretary, by order of the Select Committee, a copy of their † reſolutions relating to Mr. *Bolts*.

The Board ordered, that Mr. *Morris*, the Company's Attorney, be employed in their behalf.

* F, Num. XXV.
† A, Page 154.

NUM.

NUM. XXX.

COPY of the Proceedings of the Council at Calcutta, *on the 5th September* 1768; *upon a Charge of Governor* Verelſt *againſt* William Bolts, *for not having perſonally ſigned the Covenants reſtricting the Receipt of Preſents; with their Sentence in conſequence thereof, removing him from his Office of Alderman in the Mayor's Court of* Calcutta.

Fort William, the 5th September 1768.

Monday.——At a Conſultation, preſent,

John Cartier, Eſquire, Preſident,
Colonel *Richard Smith*,
Richard Becher,
Claud Ruſſell, and
Charles Floyer, Eſquires.

The Governor abſent,
Mr. *Alexander* at *Coſſimbazar*.

THE Aſſiſtant Secretary lays before the Board the following letter, which he received from Mr. *Bolts*, in anſwer to the ſummons ſent him by our orders.

To Mr. *Thomas Henchman*, Aſſiſtant Secretary.

SIR,

AFTER the frequent complaints and repreſentations which I have made to the Board, without being regarded or anſwered, the Board have no right to expect that I ſhould attend the ſummons which you have juſt ſent me by Mr. *James Irwin*. However, as the Preſident, in this ſingle inſtance with reſpect to me, has deſiſted from his cuſtom of ſtabbing in the dark, and for once dared to ſtand forth, I ſhall therefore duly attend at the time appointed; and, ſupported by conſcious integrity, ſhall, I hope, be able to fix the infamy where only it ought to fall.

I am, SIR,
Your moſt obedient ſervant,
(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

Calcutta, the 29th Aug. 1768.

Mr. *Baber* being called upon to inform the Board what he knows of the affair in queſtion, delivers in his information upon oath. Mr. *James Irwin* alſo maketh oath, that he delivered to Mr. *Bolts* a copy of the Preſident's information, and ſerved on him a ſummons to attend here this day.

Mr. *Bolts* having attended, in conſequence of the ſummons ſent him by Mr. *James Irwin*, Sub-Secretary, he was called before the Board: and upon proceeding to read the information, Mr. *Bolts* inſiſted on his accuſer's being preſent,

preſent, alleging, that the expectation of ſeeing him was one of his principal motives for attending, and that otherwiſe he ſhould not anſwer to any queſtions that were put to him.

Mr. *Bolts* was then deſired to withdraw: and the Board debating upon the propriety of calling upon the Preſident to appear before them, were of opinion, that Mr. *Bolts* has a legal right to require the preſence of the perſon who had lodged the information, and accordingly ſent the Secretary to require the Preſident's attendance.

The Preſident returned a verbal anſwer to the Board, that he could wiſh they would diſpenſe with his attendance, as he imagined there was not a neceſſity for it, ſince what he had alleged againſt Mr. *Bolts was only an information he had heard*, and not delivered, as an evidence, upon oath, to ſuch facts of his own knowledge.

The Board ſtill remaining in their former opinion, repeated their meſſage to the Preſident, by the Secretary, who returned for anſwer, that he would wait on them: but ſoon after he ſent the following letter.

To *John Cartier*, Eſq; &c. Council.

GENTLEMEN,

Mr. *Baker*, your Secretary, has acquainted me with your deſire, that I ſhould attend your Board, in conſequence of the information I laid before you againſt Mr. *Bolts*. My knowledge of circumſtances aroſe from the information of others, not from facts themſelves. I could wiſh my preſence to be diſpenſed with: as there is an indelicacy, if not an impropriety, in my appearing as an informer before a Board at which I preſide, as Governor. However, ſhould you ſtill think that my preſence is abſolutely neceſſary, and my attendance, at the immediate call of Mr. *Bolts*, not inconſiſtent; if you will adjourn the Council till the afternoon, I will attend you. This I am induced to aſk from that delicacy which I think is due to my ſtation.

I am, GENTLEMEN,
Your moſt obedient ſervant,
(Signed) HARRY VERELST.

In anſwer to which the Board wrote him the following letter, which was carried by the Secretary.

SIR,

THE whole Board felt the ſituation which Mr. *Bolts* had reduced us to, by obliging us to apply for your preſence. We were extremely deſirous of preſerving the delicacy due to your ſtation; at the ſame time we had our doubts of the legality of this matter. We may err: but it ſeems to be the opinion of the Board, that every *Britiſh* ſubject has an indubitable right to have his accuſer appear before him; and Mr. *Bolts* declares he will not anſwer to any queſtions, unleſs you are preſent. In this ſituation we are apprehenſive, that we ſhall not be able to go through the matter in queſtion with that degree of

precision which may be deemed neceſſary, unleſs you favour us with your preſence. And we ſhould moſt readily poſtpone the meeting until the afternoon, but that as Mr. *Bolts* is ſummoned to appear betwixt the hours of ten and twelve, we conceive, that as he has appeared, he has anſwered his ſummons.

We are extremely ſorry to be ſo preſſing on this ſubject, which nothing but the point of legality could authorize; and we cannot conclude this without aſſuring you, Sir, that the reſpect due to you, as Preſident, will ever be maintained moſt inviolably.

We are, with eſteem, SIR,
Your moſt obedient humble ſervants,
(Signed) JOHN CARTIER,
RICHARD SMITH,
RICHARD BECHER,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
CHARLES FFLOYER.

In anſwer to which, the Preſident repeated the deſire he had expreſſed in his letter, that the Board would adjourn until the afternoon, when he would attend them.

The Board then came to the determination of calling in Mr. *Bolts* before them, and acquainting him, that if he would diſpenſe with the abſence of the Preſident, they would immediately proceed to the buſineſs he was ſummoned on. But upon his refuſing to comply with this propoſal, he was required to attend the Board between four and five in the afternoon, when the Preſident would be preſent: to which he replied, he would wait on them with pleaſure.

Ordered, That the Secretary do wait on the Governor, and requeſt his attendance at the time appointed.

The Board met, according to adjournment, at half an hour after four, and Mr. *Bolts* did not attend them till half an hour after five; when the information of Mr. *Verelſt* was read, as alſo Mr. *Irwin*'s affidavit that he had ſerved the ſummons on Mr. *William Bolts* for his attendance here this day.

To *John Cartier*, Eſq; Second in Council, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal*, and the reſt of the Board,

Informing, ſheweth unto this Board the Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident and Governor of *Fort William*, in *Bengal*, aforeſaid;—By indenture, bearing date on or about the 9th day of *May*, which was in the year of our Lord, one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty-five, made, or mentioned to be made, between *William Bolts*, on the one part, and the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies*, on the other part, reciting as therein is recited, for the conſiderations therein mentioned, the ſaid *William Bolts* did enter, or pretend to enter, into certain covenants with the ſaid United Company, in the ſaid indenture contained and ſpecified. *But the ſaid* William Bolts, *being evilly minded and diſpoſed, and wickedly, evilly, and fraudulently intending, contriving, and deſigning to deceive, defraud, and impoſe upon the ſaid United Company, did (inſtead of ſigning and executing the ſaid indenture himſelf)*

himſelf) ſeduce and prevail upon his, the ſaid William Bolts *his then Writer, to counterfeit, or write and ſet, and ſign, or ſubſcribe the name of him, the ſaid* William Bolts, *to the ſaid indenture,* inſtead of his the ſaid *William Bolts* his writing, or ſetting, or ſigning, or ſubſcribing his own name to the ſaid indenture himſelf: and the ſaid *William Bolts* did procure the ſame indenture to be witneſſed, or atteſted by witneſſes, as if the ſaid indenture had been ſigned and executed in their preſence, by him, the ſaid *William Bolts:* and afterwards he, the ſaid *William Bolts*, did, of his own mere motion, give or ſend the ſaid indenture, or cauſe the ſame to be given or ſent, ſo ſigned and executed as aforeſaid, to the Honourable the Preſident and Council of the ſaid United Company, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal* aforeſaid, or their Secretary for the time being, as if the ſame indenture had been really and truly ſigned and executed by him, the ſaid *William Bolts*; *he, the ſaid* William Bolts, *then knowing the ſame to be falſe and fraudulent:* whereby he, the ſaid *William Bolts, became guilty of* A VERY HIGH CRIME AND MISDEMEANOR. All which matters and things the ſaid *Harry Verelſt* is ready to aver, maintain, and prove, when and as this Board ſhall pleaſe to direct or appoint.

(Signed) HARRY VERELST.

James Irwin, Sub-Secretary to the Honourable the Preſident and Council at *Fort William*, in *Bengal*, maketh oath, that on *Monday* the twenty-ninth day of *Auguſt* laſt, he, the deponent, did, in purſuance of the orders and directions of *John Cartier*, Eſq; Second in Council at *Fort William*, in *Bengal* aforeſaid, and the reſt of the ſaid Board there, deliver to *William Bolts*, who is one of the Aldermen of the Honourable Mayor's Court of *Calcutta*, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal* aforeſaid, a copy of the information, or complaint, which was that day made and exhibited by the Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident and Governor of *Fort William*, in *Bengal* aforeſaid, to the ſaid *John Cartier* and the reſt of the Board there, againſt him, the ſaid *William Bolts*: and on *Thurſday* the firſt day of *September* inſtant, the deponent did, in purſuance of the orders and directions of the ſaid *John Cartier* and the reſt of the ſaid Board, perſonally ſerve the ſaid *William Bolts* with a ſummons in writing, ſigned by *Thomas Henchman*, who is Aſſiſtant-Secretary to the ſaid Preſident and Council, by the order and directions of the ſaid *John Cartier* and the reſt of the ſaid Board; a copy of which ſummons is hereunto annexed.

(Signed) JAMES IRWIN, Sub-Secretary.

Sworn in the Council-houſe in *Calcutta*, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal*, before the ſaid *John Cartier* (in the abſence of the Preſident, *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq;) and the reſt of the ſaid Board, the fifth day of *September*, in the year of our Lord 1768.

(Signed) JOHN CARTIER.

WILLIAM BOLTS,

You are hereby required to take notice, that a complaint in writing is made and exhibited by the Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident and Governor

of *Fort William*, in *Bengal* aforesaid, against you, to *John Cartier*, Esq; Second in Council, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal* aforesaid, and the rest of that Board there; a copy whereof hath been already delivered to you: and you are hereby summoned and required to attend the said *John Cartier*, Esq; and the rest of that Board, at the Council-house in *Calcutta*, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal* aforesaid, on *Monday* the fifth day of *September* instant, between the hours of ten and twelve of the clock in the forenoon, if you think fit, in order to make your defence thereto. Dated this first day of *September*, in the year of our Lord 1768.

(Signed) THOMAS HENCHMAN, Assist. Sec.

To Mr. *William Bolts*, at *Calcutta*, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal*.

Mr. *Verelst*, in consequence of his having laid this information before the Board, requests Mr. *Baber* may be called upon, to acquaint the Board, upon oath, what he knows of this affair.

Mr. *Baber* requests leave to refer to the information he gave in upon oath this morning, before the Board, which is now read.

"*Edward Baber*, of *Calcutta*, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal*, a factor in the service of the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *East Indies*, maketh oath, That on or about the month of *September*, which was in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty-six, he, the said *Edward Baber*, being then Sub-Secretary to the said President and Council, one *William Bolts*, who is one of the Aldermen of the Honourable Mayor's Court of *Calcutta*, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal* aforesaid, came to him, the said *Edward Baber*, at the Secretary's office in the Council-house, in *Calcutta* aforesaid; and then and there told him, the said *Edward Baber*, that he, the said *William Bolts*, had something of importance to say to him, the said *Edward Baber*; and then the said *William Bolts* took the said *Edward Baber* aside, and asked him, if he would let him, the said *William Bolts*, see his covenants, meaning the indenture of covenants made, or mentioned to be made, between him, the said *William Bolts*, of the one part, and the said United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *East Indies* of the other part, and bearing date on or about the ninth day of *May*, which was in the year of our Lord 1765; and which were sent out from *England*, by the said United Company, in order to prohibit their servants from accepting of presents from any of the Nabobs, or other Princes in *India*: to which the said *Edward Baber* answered he could; whereupon the said *William Bolts* desired him, the said *Edward Baber*, to go with him into a room where there were not any gentlemen writing: upon which he, the said *Edward Baber*, went with the said *William Bolts* into the Council-room, and there shewed him, the said *William Bolts*, the said indenture of covenants: whereupon the said *William Bolts* requested him, the said *Edward Baber*, in the most earnest manner, to permit him, the said *William Bolts*, to execute that indenture afresh, or over again; and to allow him, the said *William Bolts*, to take the said indenture home with him for that purpose, meaning to his, the said *William Bolts* his own house, wherein he then lived, at *Calcutta* aforesaid; alleging for his reason for making that request, that the signing was not his own, but his Writer's; meaning that the name of him, the said *William Bolts*,

as it then appeared to be ſigned and wrote, or ſet and ſubſcribed to the ſaid indenture, was not of his, the ſaid *William Bolts* his own proper hand-writing; but the ſame was ſigned and wrote, or ſet and ſubſcribed, by his, the ſaid *William Bolts* his Writer; and that that circumſtance, or fact, was known by Mr. *Sage* (meaning one *Iſaac Sage*, who was then in the ſervice of the ſaid United Company) who he, the ſaid *William Bolts*, then ſaid, that he was apprehenſive would make it public, and turn it to the prejudice of him, the ſaid *William Bolts*; or expreſſed himſelf in words to that or the like purport or effect. Whereupon the ſaid *Edward Baber* then told him, the ſaid *William Bolts*, that it was not in the power of him, the ſaid *Edward Baber*, to grant or comply with the beforementioned requeſt of him, the ſaid *William Bolts*: upon which the ſaid *William Bolts* made uſe of ſeveral arguments in order to induce and prevail upon him, the ſaid *Edward Baber*, to grant or comply with his, the ſaid *William Bolts* his beforementioned requeſt; amongſt other things inſinuating, that it might be done without ever coming to the knowledge of the Preſident or any of the Council at *Fort William*, in *Bengal* aforeſaid; whereupon the ſaid *Edward Baber* (in order to free himſelf from any farther importunities of him, the ſaid *William Bolts*) then told the ſaid *William Bolts*, that he, the ſaid *Edward Baber*, was of a different opinion, and alſo that he thought it inconſiſtent with his duty: but in caſe he, the ſaid *William Bolts*, had a mind, they would go and conſult Mr. *Campbell* upon it (meaning one *Alexander Campbell* then in *Calcutta* aforeſaid, in the ſervice of the ſaid United Company, and who was a particular friend and acquaintance of him, the ſaid *William Bolts*:) but he, the ſaid *William Bolts*, then rejected that offer, or propoſal, and begged that the ſaid *Alexander Campbell* might not be made acquainted with the beforementioned affair, or tranſaction: whereupon the ſaid *Edward Baber* peremptorily refuſed to permit him, the ſaid *William Bolts*, to execute the ſaid indenture afreſh, or over again, or to allow him to carry the ſame home with him, to his, the ſaid *William Bolts* his own houſe, for that purpoſe. And thereupon the ſaid *William Bolts* moſt importunately ſolicited him, the ſaid *Edward Baber*, to keep the beforementioned matter, or tranſaction, a profound ſecret; upon which the ſaid *Edward Baber* then and there told the ſaid *William Bolts*, that ſo long as he could keep it a ſecret conſiſtently with his duty to his Employers, meaning the ſaid United Company and their Preſident and Council at *Fort William*, in *Bengal* aforeſaid, he would; but if it ſhould ever be of conſequence to diſcover that matter, or tranſaction, he, the ſaid *Edward Baber*, would look upon that promiſe to be void and inconſiſtent with his duty to his beforementioned Employers. (Signed) EDWARD BABER."

"Sworn in the Council-houſe in *Calcutta*, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal*, before *John Cartier*, Eſq; Second in Council at *Fort William*, in *Bengal* aforeſaid (in the abſence of the Preſident, *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq;) and the reſt of the Board there, the fifth day of *September*, in the year of our Lord 1768.

JOHN CARTIER,
RICHARD SMITH,
RICHARD BECHER,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
CHARLES FFLOYER."

Mr.

Mr. *Bolts* was then aſked, Whether the information delivered in was true? He replied, that part is true and part is not true.

Q. What part is true and what part is not?

A. That part is falſe which ſays, Mr. *Bolts* requeſted Mr. *Baber* to permit him to execute the indenture afreſh, or over again, and to allow him to take the ſaid indenture home with him for that purpoſe. Mr. *Bolts* farther ſays, That many of the moſt material circumſtances ſeem deſignedly omitted, and many others miſrepreſented, which Mr. *Bolts* will more particularly ſpecify in his written defence, which he now propoſes to deliver in; previous to which Mr. *Bolts* begs leave to remark, that Mr. *Baber* is not a competent * judge, having been inſtigated to propagate falſities, ſolely from his having commenced a proſecution againſt him in the Mayor's Court (as Clerk of the Peace) for furniſhing him with falſe records of the proceedings of the Seſſions of the 27th *May* 1768.

Mr. *Bolts* now begs leave to read his defence.

Mr. *Bolts* is now aſked, if he has any queſtions to put to Mr. *Verelſt*, who is now preſent:—To which he anſwers, he has ſeveral, as will appear in the courſe of his defence, but which he will not now previouſly, or detachedly aſk.

Mr. *Verelſt* acquaints the Board, that he knows nothing further of the matter than what is contained in the information, which he has already called upon Mr. *Baber* to ſupport, that if Mr. *Bolts* has any queſtions to put to him, if Mr. *Bolts* pleaſes to commit them to WRITING, he will anſwer them in the moſt candid manner in his power; *but that he would not wiſh to be preſent when Mr.* Bolts *enters upon his defence, for reaſons he will aſſign, ſhould the Board think proper to call on him.*

The Preſident then retired, having firſt obtained the permiſſion of the Board; but was told, that if they found it neceſſary, from any part of Mr. *Bolts*'s defence, to call on him again, they muſt requeſt his attendance again.

Mr. *Bolts* begs leave, in his turn, to acquaint the Board, that there are other circumſtances relative to the matter in queſtion, more than what is contained in the information, with which Mr. *Verelſt* is acquainted: that to convict Mr. *Verelſt* of this, it was abſolutely neceſſary to have him preſent; that as Mr. *Verelſt* is permitted to go away, Mr. *Bolts* refuſes to deliver, or read his defence, but will tranſmit it to the Honourable the Court of Directors, to whom he will give the moſt honourable ſatisfaction.

Mr. *Cartier* obſerves to Mr. *Bolts*, that it is a very ſingular indulgence in this Board to allow him to make ſo many obſervations upon our proceedings.

Mr. *Bolts* begs leave to obſerve, that it is a very ſingular condeſcenſion in him to have attended, upon the ſummons he has received, to anſwer to what the Board would willingly deem a miſdemeanour, which, if it was ſo, the preſent Board have no right to take cognizance of.

Mr. *Bolts* being again aſked, if he chooſes to make his defence? he declares he will not, unleſs Mr. *Verelſt* is preſent.

Mr. *Bolts* is ordered to retire.

* It ſhould be *witneſs*, as it was ſo ſaid by the writer, and is otherwiſe nonſenſe.

The Board taking the whole proceedings into conſideration, and remarking, that Mr. *Bolts* has repeatedly refuſed making any defence, unleſs Mr. *Verelſt* was preſent, which was judged by no means neceſſary, ſince he (Mr. *Verelſt*) had attended while the information and evidence were read, and had acquainted the Board he would be ready to attend again, whenever he had any queſtions to put to him.

They are of opinion, Mr. *Bolts* has by no means acquitted himſelf of the charge brought againſt him: but, on the contrary, has *in part acknowledged* it. They therefore deem him an improper perſon to be a Member of a Court of Juſtice: and by virtue of the power veſted in them by the Royal Charter, GRANTED THEM in the twenty-ninth year of the reign of King *George* the Second, they accordingly DISQUALIFY him from being any longer an Alderman of the Honourable the Mayor's Court: of which it is agreed to adviſe the Court, by the following letter from the Secretary.

To the Honourable the Mayor's Court of *Calcutta*.

GENTLEMEN,

THE Honourable THE PRESIDENT and Council having, by virtue of the Royal Charter, granted in the twenty-ſixth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord *George* the Second, for reaſonable cauſe thought proper to remove Mr. *William Bolts* from ſitting as an Alderman in your Court, I have it in command from them to acquaint you, that he is accordingly removed, and his ſeat vacated.

I am, GENTLEMEN,
Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,
(Signed) EDW. BABER, Sec.

Fort William,
5th Sept. 1768.

The Board think it neceſſary to remark, that whatever appears as ſaid by Mr. *Bolts*, was taken *verbatim* from his own mouth, and that whilſt the Aſſiſtant Secretary copied it, he alſo copied it in a memorandum-book, and compared it with the * proceedings.

A true Copy.
(Signed) THOMAS HENCHMAN,
Aſſiſt. Secretary.

(Counterſigned)
Exam. THO. CORSLEY COOKE.
Tranſ. A. DAWSON.

* It may be proper to inform the indulgent Reader, that Mr. *Bolts* was not made acquainted with the above reſolution of the Board, until ſeveral days afterwards. See Letter F, Num. XXXV. His defence follows in Number XXXII. of this letter of our Appendix, and the final iſſue of this affair may be ſeen in Letter I, Numbers IX. and X.

NUM XXXI.

COPY of the Proceedings of the Mayor's Court, at Calcutta, *on the 9th of* September 1768, *on a Complaint from* William Bolts *of the Miſconduct of their Regiſter*, John Holme.

Calcutta, Friday, the Ninth Day of *September*, in the Year of our Lord One thouſand Seven hundred and Sixty-eight.

At a Court held, preſent,

Cornelius Goodwin, Eſq; Mayor,

Meſſrs. *Matthew Miller*,
George Lear,
William Bolts,
Joſeph Cator, Aldermen.

ON Mr. *Bolts*'s complaint to the Court of the bad behaviour of the regiſter, Mr. *John Holme*;

Mr. *Bolts* called upon Mr. *John Holme* to declare whether he had received any letter from the Preſident and Council or their Secretary, regarding him, Mr. *Bolts*?—to which Mr. *Holme* replied, he had not.

Mr. *Bolts* then inſiſted twice, that he would prove that Mr. *Holme* had received ſuch a letter:

Whereupon Mr. *Holme* acknowledged, that he had received ſuch a letter: but as there was a miſtake in it, *he had returned it to Mr.* Baber, *Secretary to the Preſident and Council, to be corrected.*

Mr. *Holme* being called upon to explain what the error was, and what the contents of the letter were?

Declared, That the purport of the letter was to diſmiſs him, Mr. *Bolts*, from his ſeat as Alderman in this Court; and that the miſtake was, that the words of the letter run, "He is hereby diſmiſſed or removed:" and that he, Mr. *Holme*, told Mr. *Baber*, he apprehended the word "*hereby*" was an improper word.

Mr. *Bolts* thereupon complained to the Court of this breach of duty, on the part of Mr. *Holme*, and moved, That a full Court might be ſummoned to take the merits of this affair into conſideration, whether Mr. *Holme*, as Regiſter, had not been guilty of a breach of duty, and whether he did not therefore deſerve to be diſmiſſed from his poſts in this Court?

Ordered, accordingly, That a full Court be ſummoned on this occaſion for *Tueſday* next.

Mr. *Holme* further, in the courſe of the altercation, ſaid to Mr. *Bolts*, then upon the Bench, "*That he, Mr.* Bolts, *had no right to ſit upon the Bench as Alderman.*"

Mr.

Mr. *Bolts* thereupon complained to the Court of this inſult offered to one of their members, and moved, That the votes ſhould be taken, whether Mr. *Holme* ſhould or ſhould not be committed to priſon for contempt of the Court?

The votes being taken,

Mr. *Cator*'s opinion is, that he ſhould be committed.
Mr. *Miller*, ... in the negative.
Mr. *Lear*, ... in the affirmative.
Mr. *Bolts*, ... in the affirmative.
Mr. *Goodwin*, ... in the negative.

The majority being for a commitment,

Ordered, a warrant be iſſued for committing Mr. *John Holme*, as an officer of this court, for contempt of Court.

Mr. *Holme* thereupon aſking pardon of the whole Court, and of Mr. *Bolts* in particular; Mr. *Bolts*, in conſideration of Mr. *Holme*'s age, deſiſts from inſiſting on the warrant for commitment, and begs the reſt of the Members will pleaſe to remit the ſaid commitment.

A true Copy.
(Signed) JOHN HOLME, Regiſter.

NUM. XXXII.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *addreſſed to the Preſident and Council at* Calcutta, *to be tranſmitted to the Court of Directors: Dated the 5th* September 1768; *with Copies of three Affidavits annexed, dated the 6th and 9th* September 1768.

To *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident, *John Cartier*, *Richard Smith*, *Richard Becher*, *Claud Ruſſell*, *James Alexander*, and *Charles Ffloyer*, Eſquires; and the reſt of the Members of Council for the Affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies*, at *Fort William* in *Bengal*.

GENTLEMEN,

AFTER the experience which I have had of the diſinclination of the Members of the Board before whom I now appear, to render me any public juſtice or ſatisfaction, either in their capacities as Governor and Council, or as Juſtices of the Peace; it gives me pleaſure to reflect, that, contrary to their former cuſtom of accuſing and condemning me in the dark and unheard, they have at laſt, for once, dared to confront me, and that before one of their Members, my principal perſecutor; to anſwer to an accuſation fathered by him, foſtered by them all, and in which it would ſeem they have thought themſelves quite guarded and ſecure.

Miſdemeanours, ſuch as from Mr. *Verelſt*'s information, it appears he would perſuade himſelf and others, that I have been guilty of, a Preſident and Council have no right to take cognizance of, at any rate; much leſs to iſſue a

ſummons and information of the nature of that which on the 29th *Auguſt* paſt I received from your Aſſiſtant Secretary Mr. *Thomas Henchman*. And being perfectly well acquainted with the opinions of the beſt lawyers in *England* on the ſubject, I am thoroughly ſatisfied, that the ſaid uſurpation of authority, and every conſequent meaſure, as well as every ſtep you might take upon the footing of the covenants in queſtion, would be illegal and intitle me to the higheſt damages. My appearing therefore at this meeting muſt not be conſtrued as an obedience to the ſummons, or an acknowledgment, gentlemen, of your authority; but only as a condeſcenſion on my part, from the reſpect which I bear to the good opinion of the Honourable the Court of Directors: and as far as Mr. *Verelſt* appears ſeparately concerned, as an informer, or accuſer, againſt me, I conſider the other Members, here preſent, only as witneſſes of my confronting him, and of what paſſes. In other reſpects, I look upon the Preſident, and you, gentlemen, the Members of Council, as my avowed enemies and proſecutors; the proof of which, your public actions and the records of your Council will ſufficiently atteſt. It gives me, in the mean time, pleaſure to find, that after being eſteemed a fugitive and pronounced unworthy of protection, I am ſtill, in the information of Mr. *Verelſt*, acknowledged as an inhabitant, and one of his Majeſty's Judges in the Honourable the Mayor's Court of this town.

Yet, however partial or ſelf-intereſted you, gentlemen, my ſelf-pretended judges be herein, or however apparent the malice and falſity of the accuſation; it behoves me firſt, for the reaſons aforeſaid, to obviate the intended venom, by a plain narrative of facts.

When I was employed as Second of the Council at *Banáras*, the covenants reſtricting the receipts of preſents (which I ſuppoſe to be thoſe alluded to in Mr. *Verelſt*'s accuſation) were ſent up there to be executed. It was at a time when the ſervants, civil and military, were univerſally diſguſted at the proceedings of the Committee, called Select; inſomuch, as to have hazarded even the very being of the Company in *Hindoſtan*. At this very time I heard, from the beſt authority, that the then late Preſident Mr. *Spencer*, and many of his Council, with ſome principal gentlemen in the army, particularly General *John Carnac* and Captain *Archibald Swinton*, had reſolved not to ſign the ſaid covenants: and it was alſo expected and aſſerted, that thoſe covenants would be countermanded by order of the Honourable Court of Directors. Agitated by the general diſcontent, and in the warmth of paſſion, I ſolemnly ſwore I never would ſign the covenants in queſtion. Soon after, I heard that the beforeſaid gentlemen of the Council and the gentlemen of the army (except Captain *Swinton*, and for ſome time * General *Carnac*) had actually ſigned, or reſolved to ſign the ſaid covenants, although Captain *Swinton* in particular, as was publicly known to Lord *Clive* and General *Carnac*, did never ſign them, though ſtill continuing in the Company's ſervice, and having, both he and General *Carnac*, at that time received conſiderable *teeps* for preſents from the Country-princes.

* See General *Carnac*'s evidence. Reports, Vol. III. Page 310.

Finding

Finding then, that of neceſſity I muſt either ſign the covenants, or reſign the Honourable Company's ſervice, all I was concerned about was to keep the oath which I had raſhly taken, and ſtill retain the fidelity due to my employers. I had at this time a book-keeper, who, as is frequently practiſed under all Merchants, uſed, when other buſineſs called upon me, to write and alſo frequently to ſign for me my papers, letters, and accounts, being by me authorized ſo to do. The moſt ſuperficial dabblers in law know, that even a will ſigned by a third perſon, at the requeſt of a teſtator, or by him acknowledged as his own act and deed, is valid. Therefore, to avoid breaking the oath which I had, though inconſiderately, taken, I authorized, and told the ſaid writer to ſign the covenants for me, in my name, at the ſame time having them witneſſed, as my own act and deed: and *as ſuch* I perſonally delivered them to Mr. *Randolph Marriott*, the then Chief.

I then did, and now do acknowledge them as my own act and deed, the articles of which I was reſolved never to infringe; and as a proof thereof, I have to offer a circumſtance which I now inſiſt on proving before this Board, if it be not otherwiſe admitted as truth.—That very ſoon after the execution of the ſaid covenants, his Highneſs the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah*, while living at my houſe at *Banâras*, offered me a jaguеer of thirty thouſand rupees *per annum*, and actually ſent me a regular perwânah, or grant thereof, ſigned and ſealed, which I refuſed to accept of: though I ſhould have had as good a right to it, as Lord *Clive* ever had to that which he at preſent enjoys, or as Colonel *Smith*, now preſent before me, will ever be able to claim to the two lacks, the *teep* for which, notwithſtanding his utmoſt addreſs, was *forced* upon him by the preſent impoveriſhed *Mogul* Emperor; who at that very time was, as it were, a priſoner in his camp.

But if the Board doubt the validity of the covenants in queſtion, let them be produced, and I will, only for the reaſons before-mentioned, and in juſtification of my character, condeſcend again to acknowledge them as my act and deed; or I will enter into any indemnification which can with juſtice be required, for the ſecurity of the Honourable Company regarding tranſactions while I was in their ſervice. This I offer of my own free will and accord, only to avoid the imputation of deceit, not meaning to acknowledge that you, gentlemen, have any right to call upon me on this occaſion.

I muſt now obſerve, that it is near two years ſince the Preſident, Mr. *Verelſt*, has been acquainted with the ſubject which he now grounds his information upon; and I inſiſt that he be queſtioned by the Board, what were his reaſons, if it concerned the good of the Company, for concealing it ſo long?

I never denied the fact, or made a ſecret of it, as it is a thing which, in the ſame circumſtances, I would do again. But I cannot help obſerving, that Mr. *Verelſt*'s conduct is founded on the baſeſt motives, as will appear by the following particulars which attended the original information which Mr. *Verelſt* obtained, of the circumſtances and manner of my executing the covenants. Mr. *Iſaac Sage*, a gentleman whom I then eſteemed my friend, was among many others informed of the affair. Upon a breach of our friendſhip, to ſcreen his own perfidy with reſpect to me, he endeavoured by every means to blacken me in the eyes of my then ſuperiors; and for want of other ſubject, formed

the plan of repreſenting the above-related circumſtances in the moſt criminal light; which ſcheme he avowed and declared to ſeveral perſons. He accordingly communicated the ſame to General *Carnac*, by whom it was imparted, in the ſame criminal light to Lord *Clive*, and from thence to the preſent Preſident, Mr. *Verelſt*. I immediately got intelligence of it, and apprehenſive that the Select Committee would make a bad uſe of it againſt me, and tamper with, or impriſon the perſons who had witneſſed the covenants, whoſe names I had forgot; I therefore, about the ſame time, went to the Secretary's office, and applied to Mr. *Edward Baber* (acquainting him alſo with the above circumſtances, which he ſwore by his honour he would never communicate, leſt my enemies ſhould make a handle of them againſt me) to ſee the original covenants; that I might recollect who were the witneſſes, and watch, if the Committee tampered with or oppreſſed them, in order to extort information againſt me.

From ſuch circumſtances does the Preſident's information proceed. Had he dared thus publicly to call upon me before the Select Committee, of the 18th *April* 1767, he would have ſaved himſelf and his Council much vexation, trouble, prevarication, and infamy: whereas by his preſent behaviour, he in particular ſeems only deſirous of raking the public kennels for dirt of his own creating to fling at me; thereby, though in vain, endeavouring to divert the eye of the public from himſelf. At the ſame time, ſorry am I to ſee, that perſons in reſpectable ſtations ſtand forth the protectors of the moſt infamous breaches of private friendſhip, and endeavour publicly to ſupport the Preſident's malicious and groundleſs accuſation, founded only on the falſe information collected in the deteſtable ſecret ſnares of traiterous friends. Had I been actuated by the ſame mean principle, from among my own papers, and thoſe, in my poſſeſſion, belonging to numbers of gentlemen for whom I have acted, I could produce many original letters, ſigned *Harry Verelſt*, which, compared with that gentleman's minutes on your conſultations, and his late conduct towards me, would make him bluſh. Nor would this conduct have been winked at, or protected, had not ſelf-intereſted connections ſtopped up the avenues to every virtuous and patriotic ſentiment.

But it appears, that my preſent pretended judges have long adopted the plan with reſpect to me, of heaping calumny on me, founded upon the betraying the private converſations of friends or the ſacredneſs of private letters; having heretofore alſo entered on the conſultations, a very frivolous private letter written by me, for a particular purpoſe, to Monſ. *Gentil*, a gentleman protected and permitted to reſide at *Fyzabad*, by Lord *Clive*, General *Carnac*, and many other *Engliſh* gentlemen in power, by whom he was employed there.—For even my ſaid letter, which contained only the *Bazar*-news of *Calcutta*, according to public report, has been alſo made the foundation of a heavy crime againſt me, with which I have been accuſed in the dark. Alas! wretched proofs of the fatal lengths to which a faction will run, compoſed of men actuated ſolely by prejudice and ſelf-intereſt, and who are afraid of having their views detected.

Though from the ſilence of the Board to my late frequent complaints and repreſentations, even in any light, you, gentlemen, had no reaſon to expect that I ſhould obey the preſent ſummons; and though both the ſummons and

the

the information, as acts of this Board, are unprecedented and ridiculous in their nature, ſeemingly the offspring of ſome ſycophantic pettifogger, who has been called in for aſſiſtance, and who has been doubtleſs, for his own views, betraying this Board into a belief, that they can, upon occaſion, reſolve themſelves into a Court of Chancery, a Court of King's Bench, or a Court of Inquiſition, and that they have authority to take cognizance of miſdemeanors, ſuch as they would willingly have perſuaded themſelves I have been guilty of: yet I am glad it has ſo happened, becauſe, beſides the opportunity it has afforded me of publicly juſtifying myſelf, and of ſhewing my willingneſs to anſwer to any thing that can be exhibited againſt me; it gives me alſo an opportunity which I heartily wiſhed for, of introducing before the Board, face to face, ſeveral things in my juſtification, regarding which, I hope the Members of the Board will give me the ſatisfaction I require, with the ſame candor as I have done.

In the firſt place, I requeſt that I may be furniſhed with copies of all the minutes which may have been made on the conſultations ſince the month of *October* 1767, or Paragraphs of what may have been wrote to the Honourable the Court of Directors before or after that period, wherein my conduct in any particular, is arraigned. Conſider, gentlemen, that in the double capacities of my accuſers and my judges, it will betray the greateſt want of juſtice, if not ſomething elſe, not to give me an opportunity of anſwering or obviating what may have been ſaid or done againſt me in the dark. All I have to go upon is, public report: by which I am informed, that I am accuſed, in the firſt place, of caballing againſt the State, or *Adminiſtration*, as you are pleaſed to call your own acts here. And in the ſecond place, as appears by Colonel *Smith*'s minute of the 4th *May* 1768, I am accuſed of correſponding with the Country-powers, for which I am to be made a priſoner and tranſported.

To the firſt I anſwer, that it is falſe: and I ſhall thereupon only repeat one general remark, which has been made by ſenſible men from the experience of many ages, "That the pretence of caballing againſt a ſtate, however ſtale, is "yet conſtantly urged by every iniquitous Adminiſtration, againſt all who "have the reſolution to oppoſe their meaſures."

To the ſecond I anſwer, by freely acknowledging that I have correſponded with the Country-powers: but I defy any man to produce one ſingle inſtance wherein that correſpondence can be conſtrued as a breach of my loyalty as a *Britiſh* ſubject, or as injurious to the intereſts of the Honourable Company.—Not being in the ſervice, I am no way ſubject to the bye-laws made for the interior government of you, gentlemen, and your fellow-ſervants. I never write but on my own private affairs to thoſe who favour me with their private friendſhip, ſubject therein to the laws. In this I claim no other right than what the gracious Sovereign under whoſe laws I live would grant me in any other part of his dominions. But this correſpondence has of late been particularly neceſſary for me, ſince in my preſent unhappy ſituation, you, gentlemen, have, when applied to, refuſed to interfere in obtaining redreſs for me from thoſe powers. I muſt further remark upon the futility of the above two accuſations, that my fortune and welfare are more nearly connected with and dependent upon the

proſperity of this country and of the Company's affairs, than perhaps thoſe of any *Britiſh* ſubject in *Hindoſtan*. At the ſame time I will allow, that my ſaid correſpondence may ſometimes have proved detrimental to individuals, whom it may have PREVENTED FROM RECEIVING CONSIDERABLE BRIBES, by their impoſing upon the ignorance of thoſe with whom I have correſponded.

I have likewiſe, in the third place, heard ſay, that my memorial to the Honourable the Court of Directors of the 12th *October* 1767, has, in anſwer, only been accuſed by you, gentlemen, in general terms, as a compoſition fraught with falſehood. If ſo, I muſt remark, that it was very ungenerous of you to ſay clandeſtinely any thing about it, without at the ſame time giving me an opportunity of vindicating it's truth; particularly when I ſo ſolemnly called upon you and OFFERED TO PROVE ANY FACTS which might be conteſted. Flat and poſitive denial is a very common, but a very inſufficient anſwer to facts, whereof the bare recital carries ſelf-conviction with it: though indeed obſtinate facts admit of no other anſwer. But I flatter myſelf, that the events which in this country have happened for theſe twelve months paſt, will ſufficiently convince the Honourable the Court of Directors of the truth of every aſſertion contained in the ſaid memorial: the moſt glaring circumſtances whereof, I will avail myſelf of the preſent occaſion, face to face, to take notice of.

Under the head of MISMANAGEMENT, the following facts will, now and hereafter, ſufficiently ſpeak for themſelves.

I. The enormous *baky*, or deficiency which, at the end of this ſeaſon, will appear in the revenues, will not be leſs than from ſixty lacks to one crore of rupees; although for reputation ſake, the artifice will be again uſed, of a farther poſtponing of the *poonea* beyond the uſual time, in order to appropriate the *Hally* collections to the reduction of the *bakeya* or *bilaat-baky*.

II. The deficiency which will appear in the inveſtment: which though originally ordered by you (according to the liſts ſent to the different Aurungs) for one hundred and twenty-five lacks of rupees, yet will not probably amount to fifty; while ten ſhips at leaſt will expect cargoes, and be returned with almoſt half their tonnage unemployed by the Company, and conſequently loſt to them.

III. The frauds, which in conſequence of inattention to the tranſactions at the *Durbar* and *Coſſimbazar*, and of the loading of one gentleman with too much buſineſs, have been introduced to the detriment of the Honourable Company's affairs; as now under the inſpection of the deputies lately ſent.—Barracks, which have been charged to the Company at five times their real worth. —Overcharges on timbers in other places, which article alone ſtands on the Company's books, under different heads, *rated at about fifteen lacks*; for which there is not exiſting the intrinſic worth of *three lacks*:—Beſides the much more conſiderable frauds and miſmanagement in the revenues, which will hereafter appear to have paſſed unnoticed, and which, upon a future occaſion, I will undertake to point out.

IV. The *ſcarcity of ſilver*, and the injudicious introduction of a *baſe gold-coin*, which already, by the *riſe of batta*, has become a tax upon the fortunes of every inhabitant (now *univerſally clamorous*) equivalent at leaſt to *eleven*

per cent.—A grievance under which the poor are more particularly oppreſſed, and which, if better management be not ſpeedily exerted, will daily increaſe, and in the end terminate in a loſs, to the Honourable Company, of at leaſt *ten* or *fifteen lacks of rupees.*

Under the head of the UNDUE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

V. In the management of the collections, while in ſome places the utmoſt remiſſneſs is ſhewn, in others the exactions of the harpies employed are carried on with ſuch oppreſſion, particularly towards the poor, that *parents have been forced to ſell their children* to ſatisfy the demands made on them on this head.

VI. In the proviſion of the Honourable Company's inveſtment, the rigorous and oppreſſive meaſures taken with the manufacturers, in ſome places, have occaſioned *nagaads*, or winders of raw ſilk, *to cut off their thumbs*, to prevent their being forced to work; though it is better ſince an increaſe of pay took place.—In other places weavers have been, by the Company's agents, publicly flogged through their town, and deprived in the moſt ignominious and cruel manner of what is moſt valuable to them, their caſts, for having only dared to ſell in the *Bazar* a few pieces of cloth of their own manufacturing or providing; and the ſaid *Engliſh* agents, in order to ſcreen themſelves, have after all *tranſferred thoſe unhappy people to the Nabob's officers* for further puniſhment.—*Dalalls*, who have had unlawful *mutchulcahs*, or obligatory bonds forced from them, not to furniſh their cloth, except to certain perſons, at prices much below the market, and who have notwithſtanding ventured to ſell their property to others; having been therein detected, have, by the Company's agents, been impriſoned, put in irons and flogged, while large ſums of money have been exacted from them by way of fines.

Under the head of COMMITTEE'S PRIVATE EMOLUMENTS.

In the XLVth Paragraph of my Memorial, I likewiſe aſſerted, that the extraordinary power uſurped by the Committee, called Select, had been no way beneficial to the Company's affairs, and of ſervice to none, excepting to the Members of the Committee, to whom it had been a fund for private emolument. To vindicate myſelf from the imputation of falſehood on this head, I hope, that from among many, the few following publicly known facts will amply ſuffice.

VII. Private monopolies have been eſtabliſhed by the Members of the Committee and Council among themſelves, in ſalt, cotton, piece-goods, ſaltpetre, raw ſilk, ſugar, *&c.* in which they have all been, or are, more or leſs jointly, or ſeparately concerned. The firſt, as to the profits, was the moſt conſiderable of them all, and was principally eſtabliſhed and conducted by Mr. *Verelſt*, who was enabled to plan it ſolely from the foreknowledge he obtained, as a Member of the Committee, of the regulations which were to be eſtabliſhed for the ſociety of ſalt, beetle-nut, and tobacco. The profits ariſing on this monopoly almoſt exceed belief; the concerned having bought at 90 *Arcot* rupees *per* 100 maunds what they ſold for from 3 to 400: which, in effect, was making a poor inhabitant pay four rupees for a maund of ſalt, which in the common courſe of things he would have got for one. The methods, on the commencement of this engagement, uſed throughout the *Dinagepore* and *Purnea* provinces, to effect this monopoly, may be ſeen at large

in

in the records of the Mayor's Court, in a cauſe filed the 15th *September* 1767, wherein *Parſeek Arratoon* is Plaintiff, againſt *Tom Lewis*, *&c.* Agents for Meſſrs. *Verelſt* and *Sykes*, for current rupees 60,432, principal amount of about twenty thouſand maunds of ſalt, ſaid to be forcibly taken out of the Plaintiff's *golahs*, or warehouſes. This cauſe, when the depoſitions of the witneſſes had been all read, the pleas fully heard, the demand apparently eſtabliſhed, and the decree juſt going to be pronounced, was complaiſantly and ſuddenly put a ſtop to, by a meſſage from the Preſident Mr. *Verelſt*, to the preſent Mayor, then ſitting in judgment. And the Plaintiff's demand thereupon has not yet been paid, a reaſon as alleged for it in Mr. *Verelſt*'s meſſage being, *that he was a party concerned.*

The monopoly next in conſequence is that of the cotton, carried into execution ſoon after the arrival of the gentlemen of Council, who were ſent for from *Madraſs* to reform this ſettlement; wherein almoſt every gentleman of the Council (except Meſſrs. *Cartier*, *Becher*, and *Alexander*, and one or two more at ſubordinate factories) have been concerned. The original concern of what was bought at *Bombay*, *Surat*, and *Calcutta*, amounted to about twenty-five lacks of rupees. Shares were afterwards ſold to different gentlemen, and amongſt the reſt Mr. *Verelſt* ſold his ſhare of one eighth to Colonel *Richard Smith* and Mr. *Claud Ruſſell* for 55,000 rupees clear profit. The monopoly of this article muſt of conſequence enhance the prices of the Honourable Company's inveſtment throughout the provinces; and it ſeems ſelf-evident, that either the gentlemen concerned did not comprehend this, or that they did it with that intent. The ſales of this commodity, however, not being ſo briſk as was expected, there was, at one time, about eighteen lacks of rupees worth of it lying in warehouſes in *Calcutta*. At laſt ſome of the concerned deviſed a method to get rid of it, by making application to the Nabob *Mahommed Reza Khawn*, whom they employed as their private gomaſtah, and conſigned moſt enormous quantities to him for ſale. Accordingly, to oblige the gentlemen concerned, he forced it upon the Zemindars at different prices, even as high as twenty-five ſicca rupees *per* maund; in general, for payment, firſt deducting the amount of what was thus ſold to the Zemindars, from the kiſts of the revenues, as ſent by them to the *Cutcherry*. In conſequence of theſe forced ſales the Zemindars have been neceſſitated to re-ſell their cotton to great diſadvantage, even ſo low as at thirteen rupees *per* maund: all which ultimately falls upon the revenues, and, in fact, is neither more nor leſs than making the Honourable Company pay to the owners of the cotton ſo much *per* maund, on what was thus ſent the Nabob at *Murſhedabad*.

The monopoly of piece-goods is confined principally to *Dacca* and ſome other aurungs, where goods are provided fit for the markets of *Buſſorah*, *Judda*, and *Mocha*. For the exportation of the goods of this monopoly, the Governor and Council have ſeveral ſhips on a joint concern, with which, on their own accounts, they export their goods, and trade to ſeveral particular ports where the moſt profitable voyages are to be made. When one of theſe their freight-ſhips, as they are called, is ready, and any other perſon or perſons attempt to ſet up another on the ſame voyage; though it had been planned, publiſhed, and engaged in, long before theirs; yet no private merchant is ſuffered to load any goods on the ſaid ſhips of their own choice, till the loading of the freight-ſhip of the Preſident and Council be completed. Frequent inſtances can be

given of the goods of private Merchants, even *Europeans*, but particularly of thoſe belonging to *Armenians*, *Moguls*, and *Gentoos*, being, in conſequence, ſtopped on the road, and by force carried to the *freight-warehouſe* of the Governor and Council: the proprietors having been obliged, contrary to their wills, to ſee their goods ſhipped on veſſels they had not a good opinion of, and going on voyages whereof the diſtination and management were frequently contrary to their own private ſchemes of trade. In conſequence of which, they have frequently loſt their ſales, have had their goods damaged and left at ports they never deſigned they ſhould touch at; and have ſometimes loſt even the goods themſelves. By all which cruel circumſtances, there are, in this city, many inſtances of *Armenian* families who have been ruined.

In ſhort, to relate the particulars of all the monopolies, would be to tire the patience of the Honourable the Court of Directors, to whom this addreſs will of courſe be tranſmitted. It will in the mean time be readily acknowledged, that they all tend to the *ruin of the country*, and are infringements of the rights of individuals, while I hope the facts above-related, which are all authentic, will be deemed ſufficient to evince, that the uſurped power of the Council and Committee is a fund for the private emolument of their Members; the point which was to be demonſtrated.

That part of my Memorial alſo, RELATIVE TO RAMNAUT, I will ſtill inſiſt is every word ſtrictly true: though I have heard it ſaid, that Mr. *Verelſt* was greatly ſcandalized at my having even but ſlightly mentioned the demands he made upon *Ramnaut* for the amount of ſalt and boats ſold him; and I know that Mr. *Verelſt* has declared to the Honourable Court of Directors, upon his honour, that he had not in *November* 1767, received a ſingle rupee of *Ramnaut*'s debt: which I will now, and here, by original documents and inconteſtable facts, alſo prove to be contrary to truth.

If I would avail myſelf of the precedent ſet me by Mr. *Verelſt*, I might, in pompous form, have introduced this matter to the Board, and have pretended, that Mr. *Verelſt* has been guilty of a deceit upon his employers, or a breach of truſt, and in a formal INFORMATION, might have ſaid (uſing Mr. *Verelſt*'s own words) "That *Harry Verelſt* being evilly minded and diſpoſed, and wickedly, evilly, and fraudulently intending, contriving, and deſigning" to ſcreen his oppreſſion of an innocent man, for ſelf-intereſted purpoſes, and to "deceive, defraud, and impoſe" upon his maſters, the Honourable the Court of Directors, by an appearance of ſanctity, diſintereſtedneſs, and compaſſion, had, *&c. &c. &c.* But to ſave myſelf and the Board that trouble, I chooſe rather in the eſtabliſhed and only authorized method, to mention the facts in my preſent addreſs to the Board.

And firſt, I beg leave to produce an original letter received from *Ramnaut*; Dated the 8th *Bhadro*, or 21ſt *Auguſt* 1768, and received by me the 29th, of which the following is the ſubſtance.

(Here comes in the letter from *Ramnaut*, which, as it hath been already given in *Conſiderations*, *&c.* page 103, we beg leave to refer the Reader thereto.)

The next document on this affair is an original letter from the ſaid *Ramnaut*, dated the ſaid 8th *Bhadro*, or 21ſt of *Auguſt* 1768, and received by me on the 29th *Auguſt*, under a flying ſeal, for peruſal, and to be delivered to the Preſident Mr. *Verelſt*: which original letter I herewith, in preſence of

this Board, deliver. The following is an exact literal tranſlation of it according to the *Indian* ſtile.

(Here comes in *Ramnaut*'s letter to the Governor and Council, for which alſo ſee Conſiderations, *&c.* p. 105.)

The next document is an original account-current (though no credit inſerted) of the demand made upon *Ramnaut*, which is in my poſſeſſion, in the hand-writing of one of Mr. *Verelſt*'s Banyans, as follows, *viz.*

Dr.			Cr.
1765			
July 8. To the *Sernea* invoice of ſalt:			
Weighing maunds	16,459 . 20 . 0		
Deduct 3 boats loſt on the road with	1526 . 0 . 0		
Maunds	14,933 . 20 . 0		
At 3 *Ar.* Rs. *per* Md.	44,800 . 8 . 0		
Batta at 8 *per cent.*	3,584 . 0 . 9		
		48,384 . 8 . 9	
The agreement is, that in 4 months the money ſhall be paid at *Maldah* to Mr. *Barwell.*			
To boats of the *Sernea* fleet.			
15 at 185 *Ar.* Rs.	2775 . 0 . 0		
Batta at 8 *per cent.*	222 . 0 . 0		
	2997 . 0 . 0		
Of *Hudrapore* *Nabobgunge.*			
8 at 185	1480 . 0 . 0		
18 at 150	2700 . 0 . 0		
Ar. Rs.	4180 . 0 . 0		
At 8 *per ct.*	334 . 6 . 3		
	4514 . 6 . 3		
		7,511 . 6 . 3	
41 boats		55,895 . 15 . 0	
Dandees and Mangees wages, about		5,000 . 0 . 0	
Current rupees		60,895 . 15 . 0	
Intereſt beſides			

The

The above account-current does not give this unhappy man credit for a ſingle rupee paid to the order of Governor *Verelſt*, though, by the hands of his brother *Bogwandaſs* at *Maldah*, agreeably to the above-mentioned terms (though not within the ſpecified time of the bargain) he had paid Mr. *Richard Barwell*, at ſundry times, which was credited the 22d *October* 1766 . 20,000 . 0 . 0
31 *March* 1767 . . . . . 11,200 . 0 . 0

Sunott rupees	31,200 . 0 . 0
At 11 *per cent.*	3,432 . 0 . 0
Current rupees	34,632 . 0 . 0

Part of which money, according to the information of *Ramnaut*'s people was afterwards remitted to Mr. *Tom Lewis*, agent for Meſſrs. *Verelſt* and *Sykes* at *Sheebgunge*; while, in the mean time, Governor *Verelſt*, in **November* 1767, aſſerted upon his honour, that none of the ſaid demand had been diſcharged.

The next document on *Ramnaut*'s affair is, of an original letter wrote to him by Governor *Verelſt*'s Dewan, or head Banyan †, *Gocul Ghoſaul*, dated the 31ſt *Aſahr*, or 12th *July* 1768, of which the following is an exact tranſlation.

To *Ramnaut Daſs*.

FROM *Gocul Chundro Ghoſaul* the *Brahmin*, be the greateſt of all excellent benedictions made known; for in your welfare conſiſts my moſt conſummate pleaſure. From what I wrote to you once before, you will have been acquainted with the news of this place. To-day, again, my maſter was urgent and preſſing in inquiring, "What has become of the demand upon *Ramnaut*, and what anſwer has the Nabob written?" I anſwered, No anſwer has come; whereupon he ordered me to preſs again. Therefore I have again written to the Nabob, and my maſter alſo ‡ writes to him. Wherever therefore you have any money, or outſtanding debts due to you, repreſent it to the Nabob, and he will ſupport and forward the recovery thereof. Without evaſion therefore take care my maſter's money be quickly paid. If you do that, you will not be confined one moment longer. Know this, and be not in any ſhape doubtful, for *I do not write without good authority*. Date your happineſs from the payment of this money; and you may depend the Nabob alſo will take hold of your hand, and aſſiſt you in this affair. Dated the 31ſt *Aſahr* (or the 12th *July* 1768).

To the above proofs, corroborating the truth of the aſſertions in my Memorial reſpecting *Ramnaut*'s affair, I muſt add a few more remarks.

That even the ſale of the ſalt was in a manner forced, the bargain being originally propoſed to the preſent priſoner *Ramnaut*, while he was under the terrors and oppreſſion of the Select Committee, on the part of Mr. *Verelſt*,

* Mr. *Verelſt*'s Minute, F, Page 476.
† See Mr. *Verelſt*'s recommendation of this man, A, Page 223.
‡ See B, Number XXIV. Page 297.

who was juſt on the point of ſucceeding to the chair, and a Member of that Committee.

That though the bargain was ſlightly agreed to by *Ramnaut*, in Mr. *Verelſt*'s preſence, and according to a cuſtom frequent in this country, ſet down in the name of *Ramnaut*'s brother, *Bogwandaſs*, yet it was a month afterwards before the terms (at the particular requeſt of *Gocul Ghoſaul*, Mr. *Verelſt*'s Banyan) could be finally agreed on. That thoſe terms were at laſt very much in Mr. *Verelſt*'s favour, *Ramnaut* having, in the ſaid bargain of ſalt, loſt about four thouſand rupees upon the ſum charged by Mr. *Verelſt*.

That the boats were abſolutely forced upon him, never ſhewn, nor ever delivered to him; of the forty-one boats, about fifteen being now actually laying and rotting at *Khedderpore*, three more at *Chitpore*, and the remainder were carried up the country by the Governor's boat-people, particularly one named *Feyzullah Khawn*.

That, without any reaſon's being aſſigned, this unfortunate man's wife and children at *Maldah*, have been ſurrounded in their houſes ſuddenly; and his brother *Bogwandaſs*, and his daughter's huſband *Kiſſindaſs*, taken out, and confined in irons, for a conſiderable time.

That he, *Ramnaut*, has been now cruelly confined from the time of his laſt ſeizure, the 15th *April* 1767, the day he was ſeized by Mr. *Harry Verelſt*'s orders, in the hall of his Mr. *Verelſt*'s houſe, from thence removed to cloſe confinement at his own houſe, and from thence, by Mr. *John Cartier* transferred, for confinement, to *Murſhedabad*; where he now continues impriſoned, being to this day *near ſeventeen months*: during which time, before the Nabob, no one perſon has ever yet confronted him with any complaints; nor has the Nabob made any demands of money on him, except for the beforeſaid account of Mr. *Verelſt*'s. That, on the ſame account, he was brought forth, and put in fear of his life; while bathed in tears, he was placed by the Bamboes, ready to be flogged; of which I have an eye-witneſs now ready to produce before this Board.

It is probable that ignorance of many of the facts herein aſſerted will be pretended, or where that cannot conveniently be pleaded, perhaps Mr. *Verelſt* may recur to the cuſtomary and practiſed expedients of retiring behind the Nabob, or of attributing them to his Banyans, as, I hear, he has done with reſpect to ſome late tranſactions on the proceedings of the Select Committee.

I have been thus explicit and circumſtantial, gentlemen, with reſpect to *Ramnaut*'s affair, for another reaſon beſides the juſtification of myſelf from any ſecret imputation of falſehood; namely, becauſe I am authorized and have undertaken to obtain juſtice for him. And to give you, gentlemen, fair warning, I now take this opportunity of informing you, that I have obtained from *England* the opinions of the learned in the law regarding the pretended juriſdiction or authority of the Preſident and Council of *Calcutta* or their Committees, to puniſh or inquire into offences; or their ſeizing people here, though under the pretence of being the Nabob's ſubjects. In particular, Counſellor *John Dunning*'s opinion on *Mooteram*'s caſe, in many points the ſame with *Ramnaut*'s, which I have now in my hands, ready to produce for your ſatisfaction. Know then, gentlemen, that the boundleſs authority aſſumed by your Committees, with their military guards, cannot be ſupported in *England* againſt

againſt the complaint of the meaneſt inhabitant; that every *Indian* now under the Company's power, though not within the original bounds of the charter, may juſtly conſider himſelf intitled to the abſolute and irreſiſtible protection of the excellent laws of *Great Britain*, againſt the oppreſſion and violence committed by any *Britiſh* ſubject; and the higher his oppreſſors, the more ſevere will be their puniſhment, notwithſtanding the *Indian* be the ſubject of a foreign Prince, or that the tranſaction happened in a foreign country. And Counſellor *Dunning* particularly ſays, "He knows of no juriſdiction or authority in the Preſident and Council of *Calcutta*, much leſs in their Committees, to puniſh, or inquire into offences; nor will their uſurpation of ſuch an authority be juſtified by any evidence of the perſon's miſbehaviour."

I therefore now ſolemnly call upon you, gentlemen, here aſſembled, Meſſrs. *Harry Vereliſt*, *John Cartier*, Colonel *Richard Smith*, *Richard Becher*, *Claud Ruſſell*, and *Charles Ffloyer*, and upon every other Member of the Board concerned herein, though at preſent abſent, to cauſe the immediate releaſement of *Ramnaut* at *Murſhedabad*, and his being ſafely re-conducted to his houſe in this city, from whence he was forced, without cauſe, near ſeventeen months ago. And in caſe of failure herein, I now do proteſt againſt you, and declare, That ſuch proſecutions ſhall be carried on againſt you in the Court of King's Bench, by men both willing and capable to ſupport the cauſe, as may be of the moſt fatal conſequences to every one of you, and ſuch, as to be anſwered may (at the beſt which can happen for you) moſt probably occaſion your being, in a very diſagreeable manner, forced by meſſengers home to *England*, to your own great loſs and ſhame in particular, and to the great injury of your conſtituents.

It is unfortunate for the Public and the Honourable Court of Directors, that the above tranſactions ſhould have been done, occaſioned, or connived at by gentlemen in their public ſtations, who were ſelected to eſtabliſh juſtice and equity, and to baniſh immorality, rapacity, and corruption; on whom the eyes of mankind were fixed, as on tutelar ſaints, expected to ſave a *Sodom* and *Gomorrah* from deſtruction. I ſpeak this from my heart; for though I do not pretend to the privilege of ſcanning the private actions of any man, yet I have an undoubted right to conſider and ſcrutinize into the conduct of every man in public tranſactions; and to approve or condemn his doings, as they appear to me to be calculated either for the good or the hurt of the community, of which I am at preſent a Member, or of the intereſts of the Honourable the *Eaſt India* Company, in which I am a proprietor. In this light only I conſider the tranſactions which I have herein taken notice of, all of them moſt deeply affecting every one of thoſe public intereſts.

With reſpect to the tranſactions of your Board, which more particularly concern me, from the commencement of thoſe whereat, diſguſted, I reſigned the ſervice; I have already appealed to the Honourable Court of Directors: and with reſpect to the affair on which I have this day condeſcended to wait on the Board, I repeat my ſaid appeal thereupon; as whatever be your reſolution or comment upon this day's tranſactions, I hereby proteſt againſt it, as inſufficient; for in every reſpect it can be eſteemed no other than the opinion of

parties

parties concerned, or as their ſcreen, comment, and gloſs upon their own tranſactions.

The diſadvantages of my ſituation, thus ſingly oppoſing a whole and unanimous party, linked together by private intereſt, and combined againſt me, will, I doubt not, plead ſomething in favour of my cauſe before the Honourable the Court of Directors; from whom, though I bear them the moſt profound reſpect, I have however nothing either to fear or hope for. And thus acting from principle, do I humbly hope to gain activity from oppreſſion, and at laſt to riſe ſuperior to my oppreſſors.

With my moſt ardent wiſhes for the proſperity of the Honourable Company's affairs, in whatever hands they may chance to fall,

I am, GENTLEMEN,

Fort William. Your moſt obedient ſervant,

5th Sept. 1768. (Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

William Bolts, of *Calcutta*, Merchant, and one of the Members of the Honourable the Mayor's Court, maketh oath, and ſaith, That the papers above ſubſcribed to by him are the original and identical papers, without alteration, diminution, or addition, which he, the deponent, yeſterday, being the 5th of *September* inſtant, did produce before *John Cartier*, *Richard Smith*, *Richard Becher*, *Claud Ruſſell*, and *Charles Ffloyer*, Eſquires, Members of the Council, at their Council-houſe at *Fort William*, in order to be read before them, in anſwer to a malicious and groundleſs information, or accuſation, lodged by *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; againſt this deponent. And this deponent farther ſaith, That he did then and there acquaint the ſaid Board, that the perſonal attendance of his accuſer, Mr. *Verelſt*, was abſoutely neceſſary, in order to convict him the ſaid informer, *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; of his falſity, but that, notwithſtanding this deponent's remonſtrances, the ſaid *John Cartier*, *Richard Smith*, *Richard Becher*, *Claud Ruſſell*, and *Charles Ffloyer*, Eſquires, permitted the ſaid informer, *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; to retire and go home, upon the reaſon which he *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; aſſigned, *viz.* that he would not wiſh to be preſent when this deponent entered upon his defence, for reaſons which he *Harry Verelſt* would aſſign, ſhould the ſaid Board think proper to call on him. And this deponent farther ſaith, That thereupon he this deponent refuſed to deliver or read the ſaid papers, but promiſed to tranſmit them to the Honourable the Court of Directors, to whom he would give the moſt honourable ſatisfaction.

(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

Sworn to in Court this 6th day of Sept. 1768.

CORN. GOODWIN, Mayor. L. S.

The Mayor's Court Seal. J. HOLME, Reg. SPARKS, Att.

GEORGE LEAR, Alderman. L. S.

Melcomb Philip, of *Calcutta*, *Armenian* Merchant, maketh oath and ſaith, That in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty-five, he, this deponent, was at *Banáras*, when his Highneſs the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah* lived in a

houſe occupied and furniſhed by Mr. *William Bolts*, now of *Calcutta*, but then at *Banáras*, in the ſervice of the Honourable *Engliſh Eaſt India* Company. And this deponent further ſaith, That he has poſitive, evident, and perſonal knowledge, that ſome time in the month of *July* or *Auguſt* 1765, or thereabouts, the beforeſaid Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah*, of his own good will and free accord, did then and there offer to the ſaid *William Bolts* a *Jagueer of thirty thouſand rupees per annum*. And this deponent ſaith, That the ſaid Nabob did alſo himſelf perſonally ſpeak to this deponent on the ſubject of the ſaid jagueer offered to the ſaid *William Bolts*; and this deponent further ſaith, That he knows that, notwithſtanding repeated applications which were made to the ſaid *William Bolts*, yet he, *William Bolts*, refuſed and declined accepting the ſaid offer, or any equivalent in the whole, or in part: and farther this deponent ſaith not. (Signed) MELCOMB PHILIP.

Sworn in Court this 9th day of Sept. 1768.

CORN. GOODWIN, Mayor. L. S.

The Mayor's Court Seal. JOHN HOLME, Regiſter.

JOSEPH CATOR, Alderman. L. S.

Lourenço Picachy, of *Calcutta*, Merchant, maketh oath and ſaith, That in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty-five, he, this deponent, was book-keeper in the ſervice of Mr. *William Bolts* of *Calcutta*, then at *Banáras*, in the ſervice of the *Engliſh Eaſt India* Company, in which capacity of book-keeper, he this deponent, as is frequently the practice among Merchants, being authorized thereto by his ſaid maſter, did frequently draw out, write, ſign, and furniſh, accounts and letters for the ſaid *William Bolts*. And this deponent farther ſaith, That ſome time in the month of *June*, or *July* 1765 (or thereabouts to the beſt of his remembrance) certain covenants, or indentures, reſtricting the receipt of preſents, as ſent out by the ſaid *Engliſh Eaſt India* Company, were tendered to the ſaid *William Bolts*, for to be executed; and that he, the ſaid *William Bolts*, did then and there authorize, and command this deponent, to ſign the ſaid covenants, in the name, and as the act and deed of him, *William Bolts*; which he, *William Bolts*, did then and there acknowledge, as ſuch his act and deed. And this deponent farther ſaith, That the ſaid covenants, or indentures, were alſo then and there witneſſed, as the act and deed of him, *William Bolts*; and that he, *William Bolts*, did alſo deliver the ſame, as his act and deed: and farther this deponent ſaith not.

(Signed) LOURENCO PICACHY.

Sworn in Court this 9th day of Sept. 1768.

CORN. GOODWIN, Mayor. L. S.

The Mayor's Court Seal. JOHN HOLME, Regiſter.

JOSEPH CATOR, Alderman. L. S.

NUM. XXXIII.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to the Preſident and Council at* Calcutta. *Dated the 12th of* September 1768.

To *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident, *&c.* Members of the Council for the Affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies*, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal*.

GENTLEMEN,

AGREEABLY to the promiſe which I perſonally made you on the 5th inſtant, upon your diſpenſing with my accuſer's attendance, at the inquiry then on foot, I herewith ſend the papers I then had prepared, and which were in my pocket.

Notwithſtanding my repeated applications, I could not obtain copies of the proceedings held before you on the ſaid 5th of *September* inſtant, till yeſterday (being *Sunday* the 11th) in the morning, or I ſhould before this have tranſmitted to you the accompanying papers, in order to give you the more time to make your animadverſions to the Honourable the Court of Directors, upon what I have written in my juſtification; in anſwer to the many groundleſs accuſations recorded upon your conſultations, by which you, gentlemen, have endeavoured to injure me.

The ſtop put to the inquiry upon Mr. *Verelſt*'s information, in conſequence of his non-attendance, has deprived me of the advantage I propoſed to myſelf, of producing my witneſſes and vouchers to convict that gentleman perſonally of his falſity, in the face of the whole board. I have therefore been obliged to have recourſe to affidavits made in the honourable the Mayor's Court, of which, one original and two copies you will perceive are annexed to the accompanying papers, which I requeſt you will pleaſe to tranſmit to your honourable maſters, the Court of Directors, by the *Valentine*, Captain *Purvis*, now under diſpatch.——An original *Bengal* letter, referred to in my before-ſaid papers, likewiſe goes incloſed, as I have alſo been deprived of the opportunity of delivering it to Mr. *Verelſt* perſonally, before the board.—And my addreſs to your board, containing my juſtification, though incloſed for to be tranſmitted to the honourable the Court of Directors, yet to avoid repetition, I requeſt you will alſo look upon as a ſeparate addreſs to you, gentlemen; that you will pleaſe carefully to peruſe it, and that you will pleaſe to attend to the ſolemn calls I have therein made upon you.——Further, on this head, I have only to ſay, that *whenever you pleaſe to call upon me for more particular proofs* of what I have therein aſſerted, I will at all times very readily attend you.

As to your proceedings held on the 5th inſtant, upon the information lodged againſt me by Mr. *Verelſt*, they ſpeak for themſelves, as well from

the malice and partiality apparent on the written proceedings, as from the huggermugger-method purſued in the inquiry, with ſhut-doors, by you, gentlemen, the inquiſitors; who, though ſitting as my pretended judges, were, in fact, no other than what you have long been, parties concerned, and ſelf-intereſted in the accuſing and oppreſſing of me. The public, I flattter myſelf, will eſpouſe my cauſe, and juſtify me; it may be happy for you, gentlemen, if you can ſtand THAT TEST with reſpect to your own conduct, on which I have not had time to ſay half what I have in ſtore.

As to you, gentlemen, preſuming to the authority of removing me from my ſeat as an Alderman in the honourable the Mayor's Court; it is an error into which you have been led by your counſellor, and which does not merit my notice.—I ſhall therefore only remark, that whatever ſteps may be taken in conſequence of your ſaid reſolutions, I do hereby proteſt againſt every perſon concerned therein, and ſhall not fail to make them * anſwerable for the ſevereſt damages.

I ſhall purſue my former method, of ſending home copies of all papers atteſted in the Mayor's Court, for fear of miſcarriages, and am,

GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

Fort William,
the 12th Sept. 1768.

(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

NUM. XXXIV.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to the Court of* Eaſt India *Directors. Dated at* Calcutta, *the* 12*th* September 1768.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors for the Affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies.*

Honourable Sirs,

I DID myſelf the honour of addreſſing you under date of the 12th *October* 1767, on account of the oppreſſive conduct of your Preſident and Council here, with reſpect to me. I did not then imagine that I ſhould be again neceſſitated to trouble your honours, but the conduct of your preſent Preſident and Council ever ſince has been one continued ſcene of the moſt inhuman oppreſſion towards me; and that conduct has been influenced ſolely by the motives of ſelf-intereſt, partial malice, and conſcious-guilt.

Your Preſident has of late particularly ſignalized himſelf againſt me, by deſcending even to the degraded character of a formal *informer*, upon a groundleſs accuſation, of his own pampering againſt me; for the particulars

* After the writer had ſo expreſly warned theſe gentlemen of his fixed intention to apply for juſtice againſt them in *England*, diſcerning men will judge rightly of ſuch pleas as have been urged for procraſtinating judicial deciſions here, under pretences that might be made endleſs, of evidence neceſſary to be obtained from the remoteſt parts of *Aſia*.

of which I beg leave to refer your honours to the accompanying papers, and thoſe which will be tranſmitted by your Preſident and Council, which will ſpeak for themſelves.

I have frequently called upon your ſaid Preſident and Council to furniſh me with copies of the minutes recorded on their conſultations, and of what they may have wrote home to your honours, wherein my conduct is arraigned, that I might have an opportunity of detecting their views, and of clearing myſelf in the eyes of ſo reſpectable a body of gentlemen; BUT I HAVE NEVER YET BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN THAT SATISFACTION. In the mean time, I have learned, from public report, that my addreſs to your honours of the 12th *October* 1767, has only in vague and general terms been accuſed, as a compoſition fraught with falſehood and miſrepreſentation. With what juſtice or truth it has been thus accuſed, the obſtinate facts contained in the accompanying papers, and *their paſt and future ruinous effects on your affairs, will daily and woefully evince, to the Proprietors and to your honours.*

If I am ſo fortunate as to obtain the required papers from your Preſident and Council, I make no doubt I ſhall be able to anſwer every minute and every paragraph which may have been *clandeſtinely penned, and tranſmitted home againſt me*, entirely to the ſatisfaction of your honours, and the juſtification of myſelf; who am, with all due reſpect,

Honourable Sirs,

Your moſt obedient, and
moſt devoted ſervant,

Fort William,
the 12th Sept. 1768.

(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

NUM. XXXV.

COPY of the Proceedings of the Mayor's Court at Calcutta, *on the 13th of* September 1768, *upon the Removal of* William Bolts *from his Seat in that Court.*

Calcutta, Tueſday the 13th Day of *September*, in the Year of our Lord One thouſand Seven hundred and Sixty-eight.

At a Court held, preſent,
Cornelius Goodwin, Eſq; Mayor,
Meſſrs. *David Killican*,
Mathew Miller,
George Lear,
William Bolts,
Joſeph Jekyll,
John Levett,
Joſeph Cator, and
Richard Barwell, Aldermen.

THE Regiſter laid before the Court a letter from the Secretary of the Preſident and Council, directed to the Honourable the Mayor's Court, in the following words, that is to ſay,

To the Honourable the Mayor's Court of *Calcutta*.

GENTLEMEN,

THE Honourable the Preſident and Council having, by virtue of the royal charter granted in the twenty-ſixth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord *George* the Second, for reaſonable cauſe thought proper to remove Mr. *William Bolts* from ſitting as an Alderman in your Court, I have it in command from them to acquaint you, that he is accordingly removed, and his ſeat vacated.

I am, Gentlemen,

Fort William, *the 5th Sept.* 1768.

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,
(Signed) EDWARD BABER, Sec.

THE Court taking the ſaid letter into conſideration, have thought proper to put the queſtion,—Whether, by the notification of the Preſident and Council received this day by this Court, grounded on a power veſted in them by the charter, Mr. *William Bolts* ſtands diſmiſſed, and his ſeat as an Alderman of this Court vacated, or not?

Reference being now had to the charter,

The Court are of opinion, That the notification of the Preſident and Council, received this day by the Court, is grounded on a power veſted in them by the charter; and that by the aforeſaid power Mr. *William Bolts* ſhall ſtand diſmiſſed, and that his ſeat as an Alderman of this Court ſhall be vacated accordingly.

(*Mr.* Joſeph Cator, *Alderman, diſſenting, becauſe the nature of the complaint againſt Mr.* William Bolts *is not ſhewn to this Court, who ought, in his opinion, to be judges of their members; and that the Preſident and Council have not power to diſmiſs an Alderman, without the concurrence of the Mayor's Court.*)

And thereupon Mr. *William Bolts* was requeſted to withdraw from the bench; and he was then acquainted, that the bench is fully ſenſible of his ſervices.

(*Mr.* David Killican *and Mr.* John Levett, *Aldermen, diſſenting.*)

Whereupon the Court ordered the Regiſter to write to the Preſident and Council, to acquaint them, that Mr. *William Bolts*, his ſeat, as an Alderman of this Court, being vacated by the exertion of the power, which, upon reference to the charter, appears to be veſted in the Preſident and Council, application is now made for another member.

A motion being made, whether or not the Court have any thing to object to Mr. *Bolts*'s conduct as an Alderman, during the time he has acted in that capacity?—The queſtion being put whether or not the ſaid motion ſhall be admitted, or is inconſiſtent with the common forms of the Court?

The Court are of opinion, that the ſaid motion ſhall not be admitted, and that the ſame is inconſiſtent with the common forms of this court.

(*Mr.* Mathew Miller *and Mr.* Joſeph Cator, *Aldermen, diſſenting from this opinion.*)

This being the day appointed for conſidering the complaint of Mr. *William Bolts* againſt Mr. *John Holme*, and the ſame being brought on to be conſidered by the Court, the queſtion was put,—Whether Mr. *John Holme* did not deſerve to be diſmiſſed from his poſts in this Court?

The Court taking the ſaid complaint into conſideration, are of opinion, That Mr. *John Holme* having returned the Secretary's letter to the ſaid Secretary is not an offence of ſo heinous a nature as to deſerve diſmiſſion from his poſts in this Court, *as no party appears to have been injured*; yet think he is deſerving of their cenſure, and caution is therefore recommended to him, in the delivering up to any parties, any papers he may in future receive for this Court.

A true copy.

(Signed) JOHN HOLME, Regiſter.

NUM. XXXVI.

EXTRACTS from the Proceedings of Preſident Verelſt, *and the Council at* Calcutta, *on the 13th of* September 1768; *containing their further Reſolution to ſend* William Bolts *a Priſoner to* England, *on board the* Valentine, *Captain* Purvis, *and their Agreement to indemnify the Captain, upon the Doubts ſuggeſted by him of the Legality of the ſaid Meaſure.*

At a Conſultation held at *Calcutta*, the 13th *September* 1768.

Preſent, The Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident,
John Cartier, Eſq;
Colonel *Richard Smith*,
Richard Becher,
Claud Ruſſell, and
Charles Ffloyer, Eſquires.

MR. BOLTS ſends in a * letter in reply to the charge exhibited againſt him in conſultation the 5th inſtant, and † one to the Court of Directors.

Ordered, That the letter be tranſmitted home, a number in the packet, and that his letter be entered after theſe minutes.

As Mr. *Bolts* has particularly made a very libellous attack on the character of the Preſident in his letter to the Court of Directors,

Mr. *Verelſt* deſires it may be recorded, that he ſolemnly declares *every aſſertion* contained in Mr. *Bolts*'s letter to the honourable the Court of Directors, which tends to reflect on his character, is infamouſly ſcandalous and FALSE; that he ſhall particularly anſwer Mr. *Bolts*'s accuſations, when more at leiſure, as he cannot do it at preſent, without retarding the diſpatch of the ſhip.

* See F. Number XXXII. † Ibid. Number XXXIV.

Mr.

Mr. *William Bolts*, having obſtinately refuſed complying with our frequent and repeated orders to return to *England*; having perſiſted to inſult our authority and government, and to ſubvert the principles of ſubordination; having aggravated every circumſtance of his conduct, which is ſo ſtrongly painted out, and repreſented in our conſultation of the 5th *November* 1767, and which made us then deem it neceſſary, for the ſupport of our authority, and for the preſervation of the peace, order and tranquillity of this ſettlement, and throughout the honourable Company's poſſeſſions in *Bengal*, to reſolve on ſeizing his perſon, and forcibly ſending him home; it became more particularly incumbent on the board to enforce theſe orders: and

It was accordingly *agreed* and *reſolved*, to ſend Mr. *Bolts* home a priſoner, on board the *Valentine*, if he refuſes to comply with our orders; and Captain *Purvis* having expreſſed to the Preſident, ſome doubts, how far he may be made reſponſible for the execution of ſuch a meaſure, Mr. *Bolts* having already ſerved Captain *Purvis* with a * proteſt againſt his taking him on board the *Valentine*: The board, in order to remove every apprehenſion which Captain *Purvis* ſeems to entertain of the conſequences of detaining him, do further agree, (as the agents and repreſentatives of the Company) to give Captain *Purvis* an indemnification for his ſatisfaction, and from that conſideration only, as they are well convinced of the legality of ſuch a meaſure, *from ſeveral acts of parliament*, and that it will meet with the approbation of the honourable the Court of Directors, as well as thoſe ſimilar meaſures which were taken in the year 1766, with regard to the officers who reſigned and were ſent home.

(Signed) H. VERELST,
JOHN CARTIER,
RICHARD SMITH,
RICHARD BECHER,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
CHARLES FFLOYER.

NUM. XXXVII.

EXTRACTS of a Letter from Preſident Verelſt *and the Select Committee of* Calcutta *to the Court of* Eaſt India *Directors, by the Ship* Valentine. *Dated the* 13*th* September 1768; *containing the moſt virulent Aſperſions on* William Bolts.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors for the Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies*.

Par. XCIV. NOTWITHSTANDING our repeated orders to Mr. *William Bolts* to repair to *England*, he has obſtinately refuſed to comply with, and has hitherto eluded them. On our conſultation of the

* See F. Number XXVIII.

18th

18th *April*, he ſent in a letter, complaining of ſome of his agents and gomaſtahs being confined, and requeſting their releaſe. But as he had, from a ſeries of miſconduct and bad behaviour, been *deemed unworthy of, and forfeited all title to the Company's protection, and it had been accordingly* WITHDRAWN *from him*, we could by no means think of interfering, or intereſting ourſelves in the affairs of a man not intitled to our countenance. We therefore treated this application with the contempt it deſerved, and took no notice of it, further than giving it a place in our records, *the only regard we then reſolved ſhould be ſhewn to any letters he might write to us.*

XCV. You have already, gentlemen, been ſo fully acquainted with the turbulent character of this perſon, that we ſhall not trouble you with a minute account of the opprobrious, abuſive, and inſolent behaviour we have met with from him; but which you will have an idea of, from peruſing the ſeveral proteſts and letters he has from time to time ſent in to us.

XCVI. There are ſome circumſtances of his conduct which have lately appeared, that we cannot diſpenſe with acquainting you of, as they will preſent the character of the man in much ſtronger lights than it has ever been ſeen in, and convince you of the abſolute *neceſſity of compelling ſo dangerous a perſon to quit the ſettlement.*

XCVII. Mr. *Fenwick*, one of your junior ſervants, was connected with Mr. *Bolts*.——This young man was employed in your Secretary's office, and ſo far forgot his duty to his employers, that he gave Mr. *Bolts* a copy of a minute * delivered in by Colonel *Smith*, the 4th *May*. *We leave you, honourable gentlemen, to judge, what arguments, or perſuaſions muſt have been made uſe of to prevail on this* † *unexperienced youth to be guilty of ſuch a notorious breach of truſt*; and you will doubtleſs at the ſame time perceive, that the inevitable ruin of the young man's proſpects in life was no conſideration, when put in competition with the accompliſhment of Mr. *Bolts*'s views.

XCVIII. This minute Mr. *Bolts* laid before the grand jury at our next quarter-ſeſſions; and preſented an ‡ addreſs to them upon the occaſion, which is entered on our conſultation of the 30th *May*.

XCIX. Though much may be urged in defence of youth, when attacked by the ſolicitations of artful and deſigning men, yet ſo flagrant a breach of duty as was ſhewn in this inſtance, ſo open a violation of truſt and fidelity, the neceſſity of deterring and putting others on their guard, were arguments too ſtrong to be ſet aſide; and we accordingly diſmiſſed Mr. *Fenwick* your ſervice, and ordered him to proceed home by the ſhips of this ſeaſon.

C. We muſt now lay before you, gentlemen, a circumſtance which merits your particular attention, as it appears to us to be of ſuch a nature, we think *it ought to terminate in a court of juſtice.* The Preſident acquainted us,

* See F. page 482.

† A worthy young gentleman, at the age of maturity, is here repreſented as a child; injured by the moſt groundleſs aſſertions, and traduced by the baſeſt inſinuations, ſolely for the purpoſe of blackening *Bolts* in the eyes of the Directors. Mr. *Fenwick*'s guilt was his acting from principles of humanity and juſtice, to which his traducers were ſtrangers; for his only *crime* was, that of informing *Bolts* of a reſolution of the board reſpecting him, which was already made public, and which he was not bound to conceal, by any tye of duty or honour.

‡ F. page 483.

that

that Mr. *Baber*, when Sub-ſecretary, had reported to him, that Mr. *Bolts*, inſtead of duly executing the covenants you ſent out, prohibiting your ſervants receiving preſents, did elude your orders, and inſtead of ſubſcribing them himſelf, empowered a writer to ſign his name for him. This circumſtance came to Mr. *Baber*'s knowledge, from Mr. *Bolts*'s endeavouring, ſome time afterwards, to perſuade him to be guilty of a breach of his duty, and to deliver up the covenants to him, which were intruſted to his charge, that he might execute them over again. The Preſident laying this before us, we called upon Mr. *Baber* to relate all he knew of the matter; and we beg leave to refer you to his declaration, on oath, entered on conſultation the 5th of *September*, for the particulars.

CI. From this relation it appears, that Mr. *Bolts* was very ſenſible of the unjuſtifiable ſtep he had taken, and was very earneſt and ſolicitous to prevent the conſequences of it, by the method he took to prevail on the Sub-ſecretary to get the covenants out of his hands. A regular inquiry was made into the matter, as appears upon our conſultation of the 5th inſtant, and Mr. *Bolts*'s defence to the charge is annexed, in a letter addreſſed to you, which goes a number in the packet.

CII. You will obſerve from the date of this letter of Mr. *Bolts*'s, it was laid before us too late to be particularly replied to by this ſhip; but we ſhall not fail to make ſuch remarks as may appear neceſſary in our next advices. In the mean time, however, the Preſident deſired it might be recorded, as his character is particularly reflected upon, that he ſolemnly declares every aſſertion in Mr. *Bolts*'s letter to the honourable the Court of Directors, which tends to reflect upon his character, is infamouſly ſcandalous and falſe; and that he ſhall particularly * anſwer Mr. *Bolts*'s accuſation, when more at leiſure, as he cannot do it at preſent, without retarding the diſpatch of the ſhip.

CIII. A very particular, and we may add a moſt unparelleled inſtance of the inſolence of Mr. *Bolts*, the defiance he bids both to your and our orders, and the contempt with which he treats the government, is fully exemplified in a letter he took upon him to write † to *Mahommed Reza Khawn*, and which is entered in our conſultations of the 15th *Auguſt*; he has aſſumed to himſelf a privilege you have veſted in your Preſident only, and he has here dared to dictate, in the moſt imperious and inſolent ſtyle, to one of the miniſters of the GOVERNMENT.

CIV. Such, gentlemen, has been the conduct of Mr. *Bolts*; and there are many other circumſtances which, for want of time, we muſt defer until the next ſhip. That a man who has trampled upon the authority of government; who has violated his fidelity to his employers; who has endeavoured to ſeduce your ſervants from their duty; and who has, in multiplied inſtances, proved himſelf unworthy of the Company's protection, ſhould be compelled to quit

* It does not appear upon the Company's records, that theſe gentlemen, or Mr. *Verelſt*, ever ventured to attempt the performance of their promiſe: upon which ſubject ſee alſo Letter H. Numbers VIII. IX. X. XXVIII. and XXIX.

† The Reader will pleaſe to remember, from what has been already ſaid in the text, and proved, that this is a compleat fiction, as *Bolts* never wrote any ſuch letter to *Mahommed Reza Khawn*.

the

the ſettlement, admits not of a moment's doubt. And confident that you, gentlemen, will ſee the neceſſity of this meaſure, which is taken for the ſupport of government, in the ſame light you did that taken in 1766, with regard to the officers, we aſſure ourſelves the reſolution we have taken of ſending home Mr. *Bolts* will alſo meet with your approbation; ſince we conſider it abſolutely and eſſentially neceſſary to the peace, order, and tranquillity of your ſettlement, and throughout the Company's poſſeſſions in *Bengal.*

CV. We ſhould not have deferred ſo long carrying into execution our reſolution of the 5th *November* 1767; but having wrote you very fully concerning the refractory behaviour of Meſſrs. *Duffield* and *Robertſon*, and requeſting you, in a very earneſt and particular manner, to inform us of the extent of our authority, to be uſed in ſimilar caſes, we expected, by this year's ſhipping, to have received very ample inſtructions for our future conduct on ſo important a point; however, *the approbation you have expreſſed* of the meaſures * purſued for ſending home thoſe officers, determined us to come to the foregoing reſolutions with regard to Mr. *Bolts.*

(Signed) HARRY VERELST,
JOHN CARTIER,
RICHARD SMITH,
RICHARD BECHER,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
CHARLES FFLOYER.

NUM. XXXVIII.

COPY of a Paper affixed to the Door of the Council-houſe, and other public Places uſed for Advertiſements, at Calcutta, *on the*——September 1768.

To the PUBLIC.

MR. BOLTS takes this method of informing the public, that the want of a printing-preſs in this city being of great diſadvantage in buſineſs, and making it extremely difficult to communicate ſuch intelligence to the community as is of the utmoſt importance to every *Britiſh* ſubject; he is ready to give the beſt encouragement to any perſon or perſons who are verſed in the buſineſs of printing, and will undertake to manage a preſs; the types and utenſils of which he can produce.

In the mean time, he begs leave to inform the public, that having, in manuſcript, many things to communicate which moſt intimately concern every individual; any perſon who may be induced by curioſity, or other more laudable motives, will be permitted at Mr. *Bolts*'s houſe, to read, or take copies of the ſame. A perſon will give due attendance, at the hours of from ten to twelve every morning.

* See Letter A. Number XX.

NUM. XXXIX.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to Preſident* Verelſt *and the Members of the Committee of Trade in Salt, Beetlenut, and Tobacco, relative to his Share of outſtanding Balances under that Society. Dated the 14th* September 1768.

To *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident, and the reſt of the Members of the Committee of Trade in Salt, Beetlenut, and Tobacco.

GENTLEMEN,

AS a proprietor, I cannot help taking notice of the glaring neglect and inattention paid to the intereſts of the concerned, in not having long ago recovered the amount due from *Coſſinaut* and *Huzorymull* for ſalt bought of the Committee. There is now due from * *Coſſinaut* above five lacks, and from *Huzorymull* about four lacks of rupees; which ſum of † nine hundred thouſand rupees has been due upwards of twelve months, from the expiration of the term agreed upon for payment.

As my ſhare of this immenſe ſum is very conſiderable, and much too great for me to run the riſque of; ſhould the ſame, in conſequence of this neglect, become irrecoverable, or deſperate, I think it neceſſary hereby to notify to the Committee, that I proteſt againſt the managers, and ſhall deem my ſhare of the loſs entirely theirs.

I am, Gentlemen,

Calcutta, *the 14th Sept.* 1768. Your moſt obedient ſervant, (Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

NUM. XL.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of Preſident Verelſt *and the Council of* Calcutta, *at a Conſultation held on the 19th* September 1768; *wherein they agree to ſatisfy Captain* Purvis *by a Bond of Indemnification.*

At a Conſultation, preſent,
The Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Preſident,
John Cartier,
Richard Smith,
Richard Becher,
Claud Ruſſel, and
Charles Ffloyer, Eſquires.

IN conſequence of the doubts Captain *Purvis* had expreſſed to the Preſident, concerning the legality of receiving Mr. *Bolts* on board the *Valentine*, when ſent againſt his own conſent, he was called before us; and he ſtill

* Banyan to Mr. *Claud Ruſſell*.

† 125,000 l. Sterling.

continued to urge many objections to receive Mr. *Bolts*, even after we informed him of the reſolution we had taken in conſultation the 13th inſtant, to give him, as agents and repreſentatives of the Company, an indemnification-bond; from a doubt, how far they would, in this caſe, acknowledge the acts of their agents.

Captain *Purvis* having however conſented to receive Mr. *Bolts* on board the *Valentine*, and convey him to *England*,

It was *agreed*, That an indemnification-bond ſhould be immediately drawn out, which was accordingly done; and a copy of it is entered after this conſultation, and another ſent a number in the packet.

Agreed alſo, That we acquaint the honourable the Court of Directors with this reſolution in the poſtſcript to the letter by the *Valentine*.

As Colonel *Smith* is now proceeding to the army, and from that cauſe will be prevented from joining in the remarks of the board upon Mr. *Bolts*'s letters of date the 5th and 12th inſtant, he deſires the following minute may be inſerted in the poſtſcript of the general letter by the *Valentine*.

"Colonel *Smith* was, and ſtill continues of opinion, that whatever is ſaid by Mr. *Bolts* is too much below his contempt to deſerve an anſwer; but the Colonel imagines, that words cannot point out the calumniating diſpoſition of this man, in a ſtronger point of view, than the declaration contained in his own letter of the 5th *September*; wherein he inſinuates to the Company, as if the Emperor, *Shah Allum*, was kept a priſoner in the *Engliſh* camp. To endeavour to refute ſuch an aſſertion, would be to give it the air of credibility. The whole army, and every man in the colony, who knows any thing of the circumſtance, know it to be utterly falſe, and without the ſmalleſt foundation. And it could be only ſuch a man as Mr. *Bolts* who would publicly ſet his name to what he himſelf muſt know to be an infamous falſehood; and the Colonel is only ſurprized, that while this man is arraigning the character of every member of this adminiſtration, he has invented nothing worſe againſt him."

The Regiſter of the Mayor's Court ſends in a letter, acquainting us, that Mr. *Bolts*'s ſeat, as an Alderman, is vacated, and requeſting another perſon may be appointed in his room.

(Signed) H. VERELST,
JOHN CARTIER,
RICHARD SMITH,
RICHARD BECHER,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
CHARLES FFLOYER.

NUM. XLI.

COPY of a Bond of Indemnity, under the Company's Seal; given by the Preſident and Council of Calcutta, *in the Sum of Fifty thouſand Pounds Sterling, to Captain* Charles Purvis, *for bringing* William Bolts *a Priſoner to* England. *Dated the* 19*th* September 1768.

The Company's Seal.

KNOW all men by theſe preſents, that we, the honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; Governor and Preſident of *Fort William* in *Bengal*, in the *Eaſt Indies*, *John Cartier*, Eſq; ſecond in Council there, *Richard Smith*, Eſq; *Richard Becher*, Eſq; *Claud Ruſſell*, Eſq; and *Charles Fſloyer*, Eſq; (being all the Council now reſiding in *Calcutta*, at *Fort William* in *Bengal* aforeſaid) as agents and repreſentatives of the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies*, are held and firmly bound to Captain *Charles Purvis*, late of *London*, but now of *Calcutta*, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal*, in the *Eaſt Indies*, mariner, and commander of the ſhip *Valentine*, now in the ſervice, or employment of the ſaid United Company, in the ſum of fifty thouſand pounds, of lawful money of *Great Britain*, to be paid to the ſaid *Charles Purvis*, or his certain attorney, executors, adminiſtrators, or aſſigns; for which payment to be well and truly made, we bind ourſelves, as agents and repreſentatives of the ſaid United Company, firmly by theſe preſents, ſealed with the ſeal of the ſaid United Company, dated the nineteenth day of *September*, in the eighth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord *George* the Third, by the Grace of God, of *Great Britain*, *France*, and *Ireland*, King, Defender of the Faith, *&c.* and in the year of our Lord, one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty-eight.

WHEREAS one *William Bolts* of *Calcutta*, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal* aforeſaid, hath been frequently ordered and directed, by the ſaid United Company's Governor, or Preſident and Council, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal* aforeſaid, for the time being, to go, and depart from *Bengal* aforeſaid, on board ſome, or one of the ſhips in the ſervice, or employment of the ſaid United Company, for *England*; which orders and directions the ſaid *William Bolts* hath hitherto totally diſregarded or neglected, and refuſed to obey or comply with, and yet continues at *Calcutta*, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal* aforeſaid; and openly, and publicly gives out and declares, that he carries on, and actually doth carry on, a very large and extenſive trade throughout all *India*; which is done in open defiance and violation of the ſeveral ſtatutes in that caſe made and provided: and *in order to prevent the like for the future, and to diſcourage all others from preſuming to offend in like manner*, the above bound *Harry Verelſt*, *John Cartier*, *Richard Smith*, *Richard Becher*, *Claud Ruſſell*, and

Charles Ffloyer, as Preſident and Council of the ſaid United Company at *Fort William*, in *Bengal* aforeſaid, and as agents and repreſentatives of the ſaid United Company, have found it neceſſary to order and direct, and have accordingly ordered and directed, the ſaid *William Bolts to be ſeized and carried, conveyed and delivered on board the* Valentine, whereof *Charles Purvis* is commander, by him *to be received, and taken into his cuſtody, and conveyed to* England in the ſaid ſhip *Valentine*: AND WHEREAS the ſaid *Charles Purvis* is apprehenſive, that he may be put to coſts, charges, trouble, and expences, or ſuſtain ſome loſs, or damages, for, or by reaſon of his receiving and taking into his cuſtody the ſaid *William Bolts*, and conveying him to *England*, in the ſaid ſhip *Valentine*, againſt all which, they, the ſaid *Harry Verelſt*, *John Cartier*, *Richard Smith*, *Richard Becher*, *Claud Ruſſell*, and *Charles Ffloyer*, as agents and repreſentatives of the ſaid United Company, have agreed to indemnify the ſaid *Charles Purvis*, his executors, adminiſtrators, and aſſigns.

Now the condition of this obligation is ſuch, that if the above bound *Harry Verelſt*, *John Cartier*, *Richard Smith*, *Richard Becher*, *Claud Ruſſell*, and *Charles Ffloyer*, as agents and repreſentatives of the ſaid United Company, or the ſaid United Company, ſhall and do, from time to time, and at all times hereafter, well and ſufficiently ſave, keep harmleſs, and indemnified, the above named *Charles Purvis*, his heirs, executors, and adminiſtrators, and his and their lands, tenements, goods and chattels, of, from, and againſt all damages, coſts, charges, and expences, which ſhall be occaſioned by, or by reaſon of his receiving and taking into his cuſtody the ſaid *William Bolts*, and ſafely keeping him, and conveying him to *England* in the ſaid ſhip *Valentine*, then this obligation to be void, or elſe to remain in full force and virtue.

(Signed) HARRY VERELST,
JOHN CARTIER,
RICHARD SMITH,
RICHARD BECHER,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
CHARLES FFLOYER.

Sealed and delivered at *Calcutta*, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal*, (where no ſtamped paper is to be had) in the preſence of
(Signed) THOMAS BADDISON,
ROBERT KER.

NUM. XLII.

COPY of an Order from the Preſident and Council at Calcutta, *by their Secretary, Mr.* Edward Baber, *to* William Bolts; *directing him to repair on board the Ship* Valentine, *then under Diſpatch. Dated the* 19*th of* September 1768.

To Mr. *William Bolts.*

SIR,

THE Honourable the Preſident and Council having repeatedly ordered you to proceed to *England*, I have it in command from them to acquaint you, that they are now determined to enforce theſe orders, and

that you are immediately to repair on board the *Valentine*, now under diſpatch.

I am further directed to acquaint you, that if you refuſe to comply with theſe orders, Captain *Coxe*, who delivers them to you, is poſitively directed to ſee them carried into execution; and the *Cuddalore* ſchooner is ordered to be ready to carry you on board, with your neceſſaries.

By order of the Honourable the Preſident and Council.

Fort William, the 19th Sept. 1768.

(Signed) EDWARD BABER, Sec.

NUM. XLIII.

COPY of an Order from the Preſident and Council at Calcutta, *to* Robert Coxe, *a Military Captain; directing him to ſeize* William Bolts, *and carry him on board the Ship* Valentine. *Dated the 19th* September 1768.

To Captain *Robert Coxe.*

SIR,

YOU are hereby ordered to deliver the accompanying order to Mr. *William Bolts*, which if he refuſes to comply with, you are to uſe all methods in your power to take him into cuſtody, and carry him on board the *Cuddalore* ſchooner, belonging to the honourable Company, and carry him down the river, with a guard on board, and put him on board the Ship *Valentine*, Captain *Charles Purvis*, but not till ſuch time as they are actually weighing anchor. But you are to obſerve, that you are not to break open bolts, locks, doors, or windows; but to uſe all other methods you poſſibly can, to put this order into execution; in which you are to uſe as little violence as the nature of the caſe will admit: for which this ſhall be your ſufficient authority, *&c.*

(Signed) H. VERELST,
JOHN CARTIER,
RICHARD SMITH,
RICHARD BECHER,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
CHARLES FFLOYER.

Fort William, the 19th Sept. 1768.

NUM.

NUM. XLIV.

COPY of an Order from the Preſident and Council to Captain Charles Purvis, *directing him to receive* William Bolts *on board his Ship, the* Valentine, *and carry him to* England. *Dated the* 19*th* September 1768.

To Captain *Charles Purvis*, Commander of the Ship *Valentine.*

SIR,

MR. *William Bolts* having frequently eluded our orders to proceed to *England*, it is now our determined reſolution to enforce them: and you are hereby ordered and directed to receive him on board your ſhip, the *Valentine*, and convey him to *England*.—He will be delivered over to your charge by Captain *Robert Coxe*.——After which you are not, upon any account, to ſuffer him to depart out of your ſhip to the eaſtward of the *Cape of Good Hope*, or permit him to have any boat belonging to you; but to take care that he is ſafely carried to *England*. And for ſo doing, this ſhall be your authority.

Given under our hands, at *Fort William*, this 19th day of *September* 1768.

(Signed) H. VERELST,
JOHN CARTIER,
RICHARD SMITH,
RICHARD BECHER,
CLAUD RUSSELL.

NUM. XLV.

EXTRACT of an Order from the Preſident and Council at Calcutta, *by their Secretary Mr.* Edward Baber, *to the Pilot of the Ship* Valentine. *Dated* Calcutta, *the* 19*th* September 1768.

AND I am further directed to acquaint you, that you are to give the moſt poſitive injunctions to the pilot who attends the *Valentine*, not to receive on board his ſloop, or any boat belonging to him, any perſon whatever; and to aſſure him, that if he preſumes to evade, or elude theſe orders, he will be INSTANTLY *diſmiſſed from his employ*, and IMMEDIATELY *ſent to* England.

By order of the Honourable the Preſident and Council.

Fort William, the 19*th Sept.* 1768. (Signed) EDW. BABER, Sec.

NUM. XLVI.

EXTRACT from the Poſtſcript added to the general Letter, from the Preſident and Council of Calcutta, *to the Court of* Eaſt India *Directors, by the Ship* Valentine. *Dated the 21ſt* September 1768.

CAPTAIN *Purvis* being called before the board, and acquainted with our deſign to ſend Mr. *Bolts* to *Europe*, on board his ſhip, by force, if he would not embark without it, Captain *Purvis* urged many doubts concerning the legality of his detaining Mr. *Bolts* on board the *Valentine*, when ſent againſt his own conſent. In juſtice to him, we did not heſitate, as your agents, to offer him a bond of indemnification for his obedience to theſe our orders. To our great ſurprize, he did not think ſuch bond a ſufficient indemnification. Doubting how far the Company, in this caſe, would acknowledge the acts of their agents, he requeſted from us, as individuals, ſeparate bonds of indemnification. So convinced are we of the abſolute neceſſity of ſending this DANGEROUS MAN out of the ſettlement, that we ſhould not have heſitated to have granted him even this extraordinary requeſt, but we could not conſent to make that a private act, which we judge ourſelves authorized to carry into execution by virtue of the act of parliament; and as it would alſo give this litigious * man a pretence to arraign our conduct, as proceeding from motives of private reſentment, inſtead of public utility.

If we entertained a moment's doubt but that you would ſupport your ſervants in all acts which they undertake for the better adminiſtration of your affairs, we ſhould, on this occaſion, particularly point out the neceſſity of indemnifying Captain *Purvis*. This caſe you muſt conſider will ſtand as a PRECEDENT TO ALL FUTURE TIMES; and if this act does not meet your ſteady ſupport, it is impoſſible your adminiſtration ſhould ever have it in their power to ſend home any perſon whatſoever, though you yourſelves have lately had occaſion to direct us to enforce the execution of ſuch meaſures.

As a further corroborating proof of what we have alledged, concerning the turbulent character of Mr. *Bolts*, and his factious attempt to ſow the ſeeds of diſcontent in the ſettlement, we have ſent you a copy of a † paper which was fixed upon the door of the Council-houſe, and at ſeveral other public places.—This was ſeen by many perſons in the ſettlement. Amongſt others; ſome of your ſervants, whoſe declarations, upon oath, taken before the Mayor, of their having ſeen ſuch a paper, make a number in the packet.

(Signed) HARRY VERELST,
JOHN CARTIER,
RICHARD SMITH,
RICHARD BECHER,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
CHARLES FFLOYER.

* *Bolts* never had the misfortune to be engaged in law, on his own ſingle account, until he was forced to it, in conſequence of the oppreſſions of theſe very men who here call him *litigious*.

† See F. Number XXXVIII.

NUM.

NUM. XLVII.

EXTRACT from an additional Letter, by the Valentine, *from the Preſident and Council at* Calcutta, *to the Court of* Eaſt India *Directors. Dated the 24th* September 1768.

WE beg leave to add a circumſtance relative to Mr. *Bolts*, that has happened ſince cloſing our diſpatches. We informed you, in our letter, we had directed him to be ſent by force to *England*, if he refuſed to comply with our orders. As we imagined, he did refuſe to comply with them; and Captain *Robert Coxe* was ordered to ſeize him with a guard, and carry him on board the *Cuddalore* ſchooner, which was prepared to receive him and his neceſſaries; but he was particularly cautioned, that in performing this ſervice he ſhould force no doors, locks, or windows, and uſe as little violence as the nature of the caſe would admit.

Mr. *Bolts* has been accordingly conducted on board the *Cuddalore* ſchooner, and is now proceeding to be embarked on board the *Valentine*, in order to be ſent to *England*; and we muſt beg leave to obſerve to you, gentlemen, that it appears, from the whole tenor of his conduct, that his aim has been to reduce us to the neceſſity of taking this meaſure. He had prepared himſelf for the voyage, and, we are informed, had all his papers, and every thing neceſſary, ready, in order to embark when he was ſeized by Captain *Coxe*.

(Signed) HARRY VERELST,
JOHN CARTIER,
RICHARD SMITH,
RICHARD BECHER,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
CHARLES FFLOYER.

NUM. XLVIII.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to Captain* Charles Purvis. *Dated* Ingellee-Road, *the 30th* September 1768.

To Captain *Charles Purvis*, Commander of the Ship *Valentine*, in the Service of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies*, in *Ingellee-Road*.

SIR,

CONFORMABLY to a conſpiracy which has been long forming againſt me, my family, liberty, and property, by my enemies, and ſundry other evil-minded perſons, who have combined together inhumanly to force me

me to *Europe*, I am this inſtant brought down along-ſide your veſſel, by a Captain, Serjeant, and a party of armed ſeapoys; who have ſome time held me a priſoner, and who are now going to force me up the ſides of your ſhip, to be there continued a priſoner till I get to *England*. If therefore you do not intend to receive me, and keep me a priſoner, I am to require you will inſtantly take the neceſſary meaſures for repelling by force the violence intended, that I may be freed from my preſent captivity, and ſaved from ruin.

I am, SIR,

Ingellee Road,
the 30th Sept. 1768.

Your moſt obedient ſervant,
(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

NUM. XLIX.

EXTRACT from a Paper called The Plea and Anſwer *of* John Cartier, *Second, and Meſſrs. Colonel* Richard Smith, Richard Becher, Claud Ruſſell, *and* Charles Ffloyer, *Council at* Fort William, *in* Bengal, *to* The Appeal *of* William Bolts *to his* MAJESTY *in Council. Dated* December 1768; *as the ſame was tranſmitted to the Court of Directors* per *Ship* Shrewſbury, *in order to be laid before his* MAJESTY.

William Bolts, of *Calcutta*, Merchant, - - - Appellant.

And

John Cartier, Eſquire, Second, and Meſſrs. Colonel *Richard Smith*, *Richard Becher*, *Claud Ruſſell*, and *Charles Ffloyer*, Council at *Fort William*, in *Bengal*, } Reſpondents.

"THE plea and anſwer of the reſpondents, *John Cartier*, *Claud Ruſſell*, and *Charles Ffloyer*, for, and on the behalf of themſelves, and alſo of the other reſpondent Colonel *Richard Smith*, who is now at *Illahabad* (which is ſix hundred and fifty miles, and upwards, from *Calcutta*, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal*, where theſe other reſpondents now live and reſide) commanding the forces of the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies*; and alſo for, and on behalf of *Richard Becher*, Eſq; who now lives and reſides at the Nabob's court, at *Murſhedabad* (which is above one hundred miles from *Calcutta* aforeſaid) as Reſident of the ſaid United Company, to the petition and appeal of *William Bolts*.

Theſe reſpondents, by proteſtation, not confeſſing, or acknowledging all, or any of the matters, or things to be true, as in and by the ſaid petition and appeal are mentioned and ſet forth, for plea thereunto ſay,

That the ſaid petition and *appeal is not ſigned by the ſaid* William Bolts, *and therefore is not his petition and appeal*; and that the ſame is worded in very indecent and indelicate language, and highly derogatory to theſe reſpondents, and the ſtations which they fill and bear, and to which they humbly appre-

hend, and are adviſed, they ought not to anſwer, till the ſame is rectified and amended; and ſatisfaction made them *for the injuries which they have thereby received, or had and ſuſtained, or ſhall or may thereby receive or have and ſuſtain.* And theſe reſpondents humbly conceive and are adviſed, that *in caſe the ſaid* William Bolts *hath any right, or cauſe of appeal,* in relation to the ſeveral matters and things mentioned and contained in his ſaid petition and appeal, that his petition and appeal ſhould and *ought to have been lodged and proſecuted againſt the Honourable* Harry Verelſt, *Eſq*; Preſident, or Governor of the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies*, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal*, who is the proſecutor in this matter, and not againſt them, theſe reſpondents; *who only acted therein in the execution* and diſcharge of their office and duty, and of the power given and granted to, and veſted in them, in and by the charter of his late moſt gracious Majeſty King *George* the Second, bearing date, at *Weſtminſter*, the eighth day of *January*, in the twenty-ſixth year of his reign; whereby it appears, That it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the Governor, or Preſident and Council for the time being, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal* aforeſaid, or the major part of them (whereof the Governor or Preſident, or in his abſence, the ſenior of the Council then reſiding at *Fort William* aforeſaid, to be one) upon *reaſonable cauſe*, to remove any of the Aldermen of the honourable the Mayor's Court at *Calcutta*, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal* aforeſaid; ſo as there be a complaint in writing firſt exhibited againſt him, and he have a reaſonable time given him to make his defence, and be ſummoned for that purpoſe, in caſe he be reſident within the limits and precincts of *Calcutta*, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal* aforeſaid. But in caſe any perſon being a ſubject of his ſaid late Majeſty, his heirs, or ſucceſſors, ſhould think himſelf aggrieved by any ſuch ſentence, or adjudication of removal, ſuch perſon might, within fourteen days after ſuch removal, appeal to his ſaid late Majeſty, his heirs, or ſucceſſors in Council, as is uſual in caſes of appeal from any of your Majeſty's colonies in the *Weſt Indies*; upon giving ſecurity to pay the coſts of ſuch appeal, in caſe ſuch ſentence or adjudication be affirmed. But ſuch appeal ſhould not ſuſpend the execution of ſuch ſentence; or his petition and appeal ought to have been lodged and proſecuted againſt the ſaid *Harry Verelſt*, jointly with them, theſe reſpondents. And foraſmuch as the ſaid *William Bolts* hath in, and by his ſaid petition and appeal admitted, or confeſſed and acknowledged, that a complaint in writing was exhibited againſt him, by the ſaid *Harry Verelſt*, to them, the ſaid reſpondents, *John Cartier* (who then was, and yet is ſecond in Council) *Richard Smith*, *Richard Becher*, *Claud Ruſſell*, and *Charles Ffloyer*, who then were the reſt of the Council (of the ſaid United Company) at *Fort William*, in *Bengal* aforeſaid; and that he was, by them, ſummoned to attend them, in order to make his defence thereto: and that he then lived and reſided at his houſe in *Calcutta* aforeſaid, and was then an Alderman of the honourable the Mayor's Court at *Calcutta*, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal* aforeſaid, and hath therein ſet forth the ſubſtance of the ſaid complaint and notice, and that he did attend them, the ſaid reſpondents, at the time and place appointed; and that then and there the ſubſtance of the ſaid complaint was read over to him, and proved by the affidavit of

Edward

Edward Baber; and part of the ſaid complaint was, by the ſaid *William Bolts*, then and there admitted to be true. And that, under various pretences, he, the ſaid *William Bolts*, did then and there refuſe to make his defence to the ſaid complaint, and withdrew himſelf from them, the ſaid reſpondents, in contempt of them, and of the power and authority given and granted to, and veſted in them, the ſaid reſpondents, in and by the ſaid charter, as aforeſaid; and whereby they are alſo conſtituted and appointed juſtices of the peace, and commiſſioners of oyer and terminer, and general goal-delivery, reſpectively in and for the ſaid town, or factory of *Calcutta*, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal* aforeſaid, and other the factories ſubordinate thereto. And it then and there appearing to them, theſe reſpondents, *that the ſaid* William Bolts *was guilty of the crime wherewith he ſtood charged by the ſaid* Harry Verelſt, *as aforeſaid, which by an act of parliament* made in the ſecond year of the reign of his late Majeſty King *George* the Second, intituled, An act for the more effectual preventing and further puniſhment of forgery, perjury, and ſubornation of perjury, and to make it felony to ſteal bonds, notes, or other ſecurities for payment of money; and which, by an act of parliament made in the ninth year of the reign of his ſaid late Majeſty King *George* the Second, intituled, An act for reviving and continuing the acts therein mentioned, is revived and made perpetual; IS FELONY WITHOUT BENEFIT OF CLERGY. *And theſe reſpondents thereupon conceiving, that it was highly improper for the ſaid* William Bolts *to continue any longer to ſit as an Alderman* in the honourable the Mayor's Court at *Calcutta*, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal* aforeſaid; therefore they, the ſaid reſpondents, did then and there, by virtue of the power and authority given and granted to, and veſted in them, in and by the ſaid charter, proceed to remove, and did then and there remove him, the ſaid *William Bolts*, from ſitting as an Alderman in the honourable the Mayor's Court at *Calcutta*, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal* aforeſaid, as they humbly conceive, and are adviſed, it was lawful for them to do. And theſe reſpondents, for further plea, ſay, *That the ſaid* William Bolts *did not, within fourteen days after ſuch ſentence* or adjudication of removal, appeal to your Majeſty in Council; neither did the ſaid *William Bolts*, within fourteen days after ſuch ſentence, or adjudication of removal, give, neither hath he yet given ſecurity to pay the coſts of ſuch appeal, in caſe ſuch ſentence or adjudication be affirmed: for which ſeveral reaſons the ſaid reſpondents humbly conceive, and are adviſed, the ſaid *William Bolts* hath loſt, or forfeited the benefit, or advantage of appealing to your Majeſty in Council, either againſt them, theſe reſpondents, or againſt the ſaid *Harry Verelſt*, in caſe any ſuch he ever had, or was intitled unto; and therefore theſe reſpondents do plead the before-mentioned charter, and the ſeveral ſtatutes and other matters and things herein before-mentioned and contained, in bar of his, the ſaid *William Bolts*, his ſaid petition and appeal; and humbly pray the judgment of your moſt Sacred Majeſty in Council, if you will enforce them, theſe reſpondents, further to anſwer the ſaid petition and appeal of the ſaid *William Bolts*, wherein the ſaid reſpondents do moſt humbly ſubmit themſelves to the order and direction of your Majeſty in Council."

NUM. L.

COPY of a Letter from the Company's Solicitor, Thomas Nuthall, *Esq*; *to the Writer's Solicitor*, John Irving, *Esq*; *of the* Middle-Temple. *Dated the* 16*th* March 1769.

SIR,

IT may be proper for me, as Solicitor to the *East India* Company, to assure you, that in the general letter now to be sent to *Bengal*, the Court of Directors have ordered their Governor and Council to settle with Mr. *Bolts* upon the terms of his answer, and to receive from him the balance he tendered, which had been refused. The substance of the opinion given by the Company's Counsel, in favour of Mr. *Bolts*, is also transmitted in the above paragraph of orders; and I am persuaded no further difficulty will occur in this matter, upon payment, by Mr. *Bolts*, of the balance, which he admits to be due from him; and I am sorry he has already met with so much vexation and delay.

I am, SIR,
Your obedient humble servant,
(Signed) T. NUTHALL.

New Broad Street,
the 16*th March* 1769.

NUM. LI.

EXTRACT from a general Letter, written by the Court of East India *Directors, to their President and Council at* Bengal. *Dated the* 17*th* March 1769.

Par. CXII. "WE have considered the subject of your litigations with Mr. *Bolts*, respecting the Company's demand on him for grain delivered at *Banáras*, and direct that you receive of his attornies, in *Bengal*, the balance of his account with us, being current rupees 3175. 7. 9. which it appears from the proceedings he once tendered, and was refused, and his solicitor here informs us he is still ready to pay, on your demand.—Your proceedings in this affair having been laid before the Company's Counsel; he is of opinion, that "When a cause is heard upon bill and answer, without any replication, the answer must be admitted to be true; because, without a replication, no evidence can be brought by the defendant to prove the truth of any of the facts contained in such answer. That this is a fixed rule; and that it cannot be otherwise, is so apparent to common sense, that *he is convinced neither the Mayor's Court, or the Governor and Council have the least doubt of it.* They well know a party cannot be deprived of his wit-

neſſes by means of his antagoniſt in the ſuit, and then loſe his cauſe for want of their teſtimony. If Mr. *Bolts* has made a larger demand upon the Company, or given them credit for leſs than he ought in this cauſe, there is no remedy; the Company's agents are only to blame, by this their manner of conducting it. And he is clearly of opinion, that under every circumſtance of this caſe, the judgment in favour of the Company is not to be ſupported. It is neither adviſeable or prudent for the Company to bring this appeal before the Lords of the Council. If they ſhould, he is convinced that the appellant will prevail, and be decreed the whole of his demand."

(Signed) H. CRABB BOULTON. CHA. CHAMBERS,
G. COLEBROOKE, JAMES COCKBURNE,
JOHN PURLING, JOHN WOODHOUSE,
FRE. PIGOU, BEN. BOOTH,
E. H. CRUTTENDEN, J. CRESWICKE,
WILLIAM JAMES, PETER DU CANE, jun.
DANIEL WIER, WILLIAM SNELL,
EDWARD WHELER, JOHN HARRISON,
J. HURLOCK, LUKE SCRAFTON,
J. PARDOE, ROB. JONES.

NUM. LII.

COPY of a Proteſt, made by the Attornies of William Bolts, *againſt the Governor and Council at* Calcutta, *on the* 29*th* January 1770, *for refuſing their Aſſiſtance in the Recovery of his outſtanding Property. Atteſted by* John Levett, *Eſq; Mayor, and Mr.* John May, *Regiſter and Notary Public.*

ON the twenty-ninth day of *January*, in the year of our Lord one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventy, Mr. *Peter Reed* and Mr. *Joſeph Cator* of *Calcutta*, Merchants, the acting Attornies for Mr. *William Bolts*, late of *Calcutta*, Merchant, and now in *England*, appeared, for themſelves and the other Attornies of the ſaid *William Bolts*, before me, *John May*, Notary Public, dwelling and practiſing at *Calcutta*, by lawful authority admitted and ſworn, and declared, That, upon the ſaid *William Bolts*'s being ſent to *England*, he left all his mercantile concerns unſettled and unadjuſted, and ſeveral ſums of money advanced for divers ſorts of manufactories at different aurungs, outſtanding, particularly at *Silhett*, *Dacca*, *Culneah*, *Conjere* or *Khanjah*, *Baſſen-Ghautta*, *Tumlook*, *Salkee*, *Patna*, and ſundry other places, for the recovery of which outſtanding concerns, the ſaid *William Bolts* applied to the Honourable the Court of Directors for the affairs of the united Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies*, who were pleaſed to order their agents, the Honourable the Preſident and Council at *Fort William*, in *Bengal*, to aſſiſt the Attornies of the ſaid *William Bolts*, as will more fully appear by a Copy of the ſaid order, tranſmitted by the ſaid *William Bolts* to his ſaid Attornies, being in the following words, that is to ſay,

" *Extract*

" *Extract of the General Letter from the Court of Directors of the* East India *Company to their President and Council in* Bengal, per *Lapwing*.

Mr. *William Bolts*, who returned hither from your Presidency on the *Valentine*, having represented, that by your obliging him to leave *Bengal*, his own, and the fortunes of several persons for whom he was concerned, to the amount of upwards of 110,000 l. are left at the mercy of the natives in different parts of the country, and that the greatest part thereof, under the oppressions he has suffered, he apprehends will never be received without our interposition. We therefore direct, that you give Mr. *Bolts*'s Attornies, Messrs. *Keir*, *Reed*, *Cator*, and *Gibson*, effectual assistance upon all such applications as they may find necessary to make to you, for facilitating the recovery of his outstanding concerns, as well as those of his constituents, in the different parts of the country: and you have herewith a copy of his application to us on this subject for your government."

In consequence of which order the said *Peter Reed* and the said *Joseph Cator*, the acting Attornies for the said *William Bolts*, applied to the Honourable *John Cartier*, Esq; President, *&c.* Council at *Fort William*, for assistance for the recovery of the outstanding concerns at *Silhett*, *Dacca*, *Culneah*, *Conjere* or *Khanjah*, *Bassen-Ghautta*, *Tumlook*, *Salkee*, and *Patna*, as will more fully appear by a letter from the said *Peter Reed* and *Joseph Cator* to the said Honourable *John Cartier*, President, *&c.* and Council, bearing date the eighth instant, that is to say,

To the Honourable *John Cartier*, Esq; President, *&c.* Council at *Fort William*.

Gentlemen,

According to the instructions of our constituent, Mr. *William Bolts*, we send you his account current with the Honourable Company, the balance of which is ready for payment, and at the same time, we beg leave to lay before you the following heads, relating to his concerns, on which we request your protection and assistance, as the nature and situation of the transactions may require.

At *Silhett* Mr. *Bolts* has a gomastah named *Anunderam Sheikdar*, who was sent up there, by that gentleman, with a large quantity of copper, purchased at the Honourable Company's sales. By the last letter received from the gomastah, we are informed, that he had copper on hand and outstanding balances to the amount of five thousand rupees and upwards; and that Merchants with whom he had contracted for muggadooties in exchange for copper, which they had received from him, then wanted to return the copper after having had it many months in their possession. Respecting this business, we request the favour of a perwânah to the fowzdar of *Silhett*, directing him to see justice done in the affair that is in dispute, and to use his authority in obliging such as are indebted to the said gomastah to pay the amount of their several balances.

At *Dacca* there is an *Armenian* gomaſtah named *Coje Miguel Sarkis*, for the proviſion of cloths, *&c.* on account of Mr. *Bolts:* by his laſt accounts, there were balances due from the Merchants, Dallals, Pykars, and other aſſamies, to the amount of twenty-four thouſand rupees and upwards; he had goods then on hand for ſale, gold-thread one thouſand ſicca weight, and copper purchaſed at the Honourable Company's ſales to the amount of about ſeven thouſand five hundred rupees. Your granting us a letter to the Chief and Council at *Dacca* to uſe their influence in making the Merchants, Dallals, Pykars, and other Aſſamies pay their juſt balances, and to grant duſtucks for ſuch goods as may be provided by the ſaid *Miguel Sarkis*, on account of Mr. *Bolts*, and alſo for ſuch goods as may be provided by the above-mentioned gomaſtah, at *Silhett*, on the application of *Miguel Sarkis* for the ſame, he producing the gomaſtah's letter, importing the number of boats, and the quantity, and names of the goods, may be of much ſervice towards ſettling and concluding Mr. *Bolts*'s concerns in thoſe parts.

At *Culneah* Mr. *Bolts* has a gomaſtah named *Monohore Mozundar*, who has delivered in all his accounts, whereby there appears due from the Zemindar, *Siricanto Roy*, the 12th *December* 1769, a balance of Arcot rupees 50,987 . 1 . 0, alſo from four aſſamies named *Ramcanto Boſe*, *Joggo Mahone Ghoſe*, *Ramcanto Sircar*, and *Ozuderam Sircar*, as *per* account ſettled in *May* 1769, Arcot rupees 48,670 . 2 . 0; alſo from *Bridjoo Mahone Sing*, as *per* account made out in *May* 1769, Arcot rupees 20,156 . 3 . 6; alſo from *Ramchunder Newguee*, as *per* account made out in *May* 1769, Arcot rupees 8,034 . 2 . 0.

Reſpecting the Zemindar, *Siricanto Roy*, we have ſent him two letters, with his accounts, to which we have not received any anſwer. His dewan, *Babooram Ghoſe* (who is alſo his ſecurity) was at our houſe ſome ten days ſince, promiſing to return in two or three more to ſettle all accounts; but we are informed he has quitted *Calcutta*, and is at preſent at *Hoogly*.

The balance due from the four aſſamies above-mentioned was ſettled with them. *Bridjoo Mahone Sing* was under the charge of peons at the houſe of *Siri Kiſno Ghoſe*, an under gomaſtah at *Culneah*, in order to ſettle his accounts; from whence he was taken away by *Nilcanto Jaguees*, a vakeel to *Siricanto Roy*, having with him between two and three hundred people, and has not been ſeen ſince by the ſaid gomaſtah.

Ramchunder Newguee is in the employ, and under the protection of the ſaid *Siricanto Roy*, from whom the ſaid gomaſtah has not been able to get him either to ſettle accounts or pay any money. On this buſineſs we requeſt the favour of a perwânah to the ſaid *Siricanto Roy*, and his dewan, *Babooram Ghoſe*, ordering them to ſettle their accounts immediately, and either pay the balance that may be due, or, if that is out of their power, to give freſh contracts for ſalt to Mr. *William Bolts*, on the ſame terms as to other Merchants who pay ready money. We likewiſe requeſt the favour of your perwânah to the four above-named aſſamies either to pay their balances, as ſettled, principal and intereſt, or elſe to give freſh contracts for ſalt to Mr. *William Bolts*, as above; as alſo your perwânah to the ſaid *Siricanto Roy*, immediately to deliver up the ſaid *Bridjoo Mahone Sing* and *Ramchunder Newguee*, in order to the ſettling their accounts and paying the balance due from them reſpectively, or

that

that he, *Siricanto Roy*, be anſwerable for the amount of them himſelf, on the ſame terms as for his own debt to Mr. *Bolts*.

At *Conjere* or *Khanjah* there are about 34,000 maunds of ſalt, belonging to Mr. *Bolts*, under the charge of a gomaſtah named *Ramcanto Ghoſe*. The outſtanding balances are, due from *Mundee Khawn*, Arcot rupees 4,694 . 4 . 9; from *Benodram Dutt*, Arcot rupees 2,317 . 9 . 0; from *Benodram Chowdry*, Arcot rupees 2,793 . 12 . 0, and from *Bollonaut Daſs*, Arcot rupees 3,089 . 5 . 0. Their accounts were ſettled in *February* 1769, and there have been a few trifling ſums paid, but we apprehend not more than the intereſt will amount to. The dearneſs of rice in thoſe parts, with the great ſcarcity of ſpecie, we believe has put it out of their power to pay more; therefore we have only to requeſt, that if they are willing to renew the contract for ſalt for the enſuing year, we may be allowed to ſettle with them in that manner, on account of Mr. *William Bolts*. Reſpecting the ſalt we ſhall take the liberty of applying for duſtucks as we ſee occaſion.

At *Baſſen-Ghautta* there are about 6000 maunds of ſalt belonging to Mr. *Bolts*, under the charge of a gomaſtah named *Godadhor Dutt*, concerning which we have no other requeſt to make than what will appear in the account of duties paid to the Nabob.

At *Tumlook*, *Kiſno Percè* and *Suntoſe Percè*, by their vakeel, *Bridjoonaut Boberta*, detained 2000 maunds of ſalt belonging to Mr. *Bolts* for upwards of two months, and then inſiſted on Sicca rupees 230 being paid, before it ſhould be permitted to be brought away. We requeſt the favour of your granting an order to the ſaid *Kiſno Percè* and *Suntoſe Percè*, to re-pay the ſaid ſum of money with intereſt, as alſo the damages that aroſe from the ſaid detention.

At *Salkee* there are about 1000 maunds of ſalt belonging to Mr. *Bolts*.

At *Patna* there were ſent 3000 maunds of beetlenut belonging to Mr. *Bolts*, which arrived ſoon after the Committee for ſalt, beetlenut, and tobacco, was diſſolved, as *per* advertiſement, but was by order of Mr. *Thomas Rumbold* forbid being brought on ſhore. However, by paying of bribes to ſundry people to the amount of about *Patna* ſonaut rupees 700, it was landed, but not permitted to be ſold, though many purchaſers would have been glad to buy it at twelve rupees *per* maund (that belonging to the ſaid Committee then ſelling at thirteen rupees *per* maund) yet no Merchant durſt attempt it, the ſaid Mr. *Thomas Rumbold* having iſſued orders for the ſeizing all beetlenut that ſhould be exported from *Patna* without his duſtuck. The damages Mr. *Bolts* ſuſtained by theſe meaſures were, *viz.* *Patna* ſonaut rupees 6000 on the price of the beetlenut, being obliged at laſt to ſell it for ten rupees *per* maund; intereſt on the whole amount for ſix months, the time it was in the golahs; the 700 and odd rupees for a bribe, as before-mentioned; alſo another bribe of *Patna* ſonaut rupees 500 paid to * *Santeram Sing* for conniving at the exportation of it, when ſold; with ſundry other charges for ſircars, *&c.* during the above ſix months, they being kept at *Patna* for that buſineſs only. We requeſt the favour of your information to whom we are to apply for the ſaid ſums of money?

* Head-banyan to Mr. *Rumbold*, then Chief of the *Engliſh* factory at *Patna*.

Since

Since the putting up of the advertiſements at the Court-houſe, reſpecting the collection of impoſts or duties on ſalt to be paid here, we have ſold bazar maunds of ſalt 83,000, from which the purchaſer deducted the price of the duties, *viz.* ſicca rupees thirty *per* hundred maunds, likewiſe there was paid ſicca rupees 6 . 9 . 6 *per* hundred cutcha maunds of ſalt brought to *Conjere* or *Khanjah*; alſo ſicca rupees fifteen *per* hundred *Cutcha* maunds of ſalt brought to *Culneah*, and four *per cent.* at the Cuſtom-houſe at *Calcutta*, as *per* bills and receipts for the laſt-mentioned duties, amounting to current rupees 186 . 2 . 6, the particulars of all which ſhall be drawn out as ſoon as we can get the exact accounts from the ſeveral gomaſtahs. We requeſt the favour of your information to whom we are to apply for the amount of the ſaid ſums of money?

Having thus, gentlemen, laid before you, in as conciſe a manner as we are able, the ſundry heads and articles that at preſent occur to us, and whereof we have got the accounts, reſpecting which we have occaſion to require your protection and aſſiſtance; we beg leave to intrude on your time with a few lines more.

Your favouring us with your anſwer, as ſoon as you conveniently can, will greatly oblige us; for Mr. *Bolts* having wrote to all his creditors in *India*, who have not ſent home their demands, to apply to us for payment, and given us inſtructions accordingly, we have already had many bonds preſented to us in conſequence, and daily expect more, to the amount of a lack of rupees and upwards; to anſwer which, we have few other reſources than thoſe before-mentioned, conſequently can neither inform thoſe who are poſſeſſed of the bonds, when they may expect payment, nor adviſe our ſaid conſtituent of their being ſettled, or of other matters that greatly depend on your favouring us with your determinations.

We are, with reſpect, GENTLEMEN,
Your moſt obedient humble ſervants,
Calcutta, 8*th Jan.* 1770. (Signed) PETER REED and JOSEPH CATOR.

Peter Reed and *Joſeph Cator*, of *Calcutta*, Merchants, acting Attornies to Mr. *William Bolts*, ſeverally make oath, and ſay, That the ſeveral balances, accounts, and demands ſet forth in the foregoing letter, are the property of the ſaid *William Bolts*, and that the ſame are true, to the beſt of their knowledge.

Sworn before me this 12th day of *January* 1770, (Signed) PETER REED and JOSEPH CATOR.
JOHN LEVETT, Mayor.

To which application the ſaid Honourable *John Cartier*, Eſq; Preſident, and the Council, were pleaſed to promiſe, that they would afford all the aſſiſtance in their power for the recovery of Mr. *William Bolts*'s outſtanding concerns, as will more fully appear by a letter from the Secretary of the ſaid Preſident and Council, bearing date the eleventh inſtant, which letter being in the following words, that is to ſay,

" To Meſſrs. *Peter Reed* and *Joſeph Cator*, acting Attornies to Mr. *William Bolts.*

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE the commands of the Honourable the Preſident and Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter to them, dated the 8th inſtant, and to acquaint you, in anſwer, they will very readily afford you all the aſſiſtance in their power for the recovery of Mr. *Bolts*'s outſtanding concerns; but they deem it neceſſary you ſhould, and therefore deſire you will, lay before them a ſtatement of the ſame, atteſted, upon oath, to be a true one, to the beſt of your knowledge.

I am, GENTLEMEN,

Fort William, Your moſt obedient ſervant,
the 11th Jan. 1770. (Signed) EDWARD BABER, Secretary."

In conſequence of which letter, the ſaid *Peter Reed* and *Joſeph Cator* made the atteſtation thereby required, as will more fully appear by a letter from the ſaid *Peter Reed* and *Joſeph Cator* to the ſaid Honourable the Preſident and Council, dated the twelfth inſtant, in the following words, that is to ſay,

" To the Honourable *John Cartier*, Eſq; Preſident, and the Council of *Fort William.*

GENTLEMEN,

IN conſequence of a letter received this day from your Secretary, we have made the atteſtation thereby required, which we now incloſe to you, and ſhall purſue the ſame method in our future applications to you for aſſiſtance on account of Mr. *William Bolts.*

We are, with reſpect, GENTLEMEN,

Calcutta, Your moſt obedient humble ſervants,
12th Jan. 1770. (Signed) PETER REED and
JOSEPH CATOR,
Acting Attornies to Mr. *William Bolts.*

To which letter the ſaid Preſident and Council replied, by a letter from their Secretary, dated the 16th inſtant, being in the following words, that is to ſay,

" To Meſſrs. *Peter Reed* and *Joſeph Cator*, acting Attornies to Mr. *William Bolts.*

GENTLEMEN,

I AM directed by the Honourable the Preſident and Council to reply to your letter addreſſed to them, under date the 12th of this month.

The Company have informed them, that Mr. *Bolts* was ready to pay the balance due from him, amounting to 3175 . 7 . 9, and directed them to receive this ſum; but make no mention of any deductions, and are ignorant of any law-ſuits having been carried on. The board cannot therefore admit of thoſe deductions

deductions you have made, and demand payment of the full ſum above-mentioned.

The Honourable the Preſident *will apply to* THE MINISTERS for a pewânah to the Fowzdar of *Silhett*, agreeably to your requeſt; and the Board have been pleaſed to write to the Chief and Council of *Dacca* to afford ſuch effectual aſſiſtance, as they may be able, for the recovery of Mr. *Bolts*'s outſtanding balances there, and to grant duſtucks for ſuch goods as may be provided by *Miguel Sarkis*.

As the Honourable the Preſident and Council have every reaſon to imagine, that the reſt of the demands which Mr. *Bolts* hath made, and which are ſpecified in your letter, are on account of contracts made for ſalt, which is a direct and manifeſt breach of the Company's expreſs orders, publickly iſſued by advertiſement, they can never imagine the Company meant, when they gave directions to afford you effectual aſſiſtance in collecting in Mr. *Bolts*'s outſtanding concerns, that the Board ſhould aſſiſt you in collecting unlawful concerns; or that the Company could conceive Mr. *Bolts*'s demands were of ſuch a nature. Nor do the Honourable the Preſident and Council think it is in their power to afford Mr. *Bolts* any aſſiſtance in the recovery of balances incurred by an illicit trade, publickly prohibited by the Company.

On reference to the Cuſtom-houſe books, it no where appears that Mr. *Bolts* hath paid any duties on ſalt. The Board cannot therefore conceive what title he hath to any demands on that account.

I am, GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

Fort William,
16*th Jan.* 1770.

EDWARD BABER, Secretary."

To which reply the ſaid *Peter Reed* and *Joſeph Cator* ſent another letter, dated the 22d inſtant, being in the following words:

" To the Honourable *John Cartier*, Eſq; Preſident, and the Council of *Fort William*.

GENTLEMEN,

YOUR Secretary's letter of the 16th inſtant we received the 19th inſtant, and it now lays before us. We are ſorry to inform you we cannot pay the demand you make of Ct. Rs. 3175 . 7 . 9 for Mr. *Bolts*. Having tendered that ſum, which was refuſed, a ſuit was commenced againſt him in the Mayor's Court of *Calcutta*; not for that, but for a large demand; and when appealed to the King and Council, the Court of Directors would not conſent to its coming to a hearing, conſequently every charge Mr. *Bolts* paid for defending that ſuit muſt be reimburſed him, otherwiſe he will be a great loſer by gaining his cauſe. We therefore again inform you, that we will pay the balance of Ct. Rs. 1301 . 6 . 6 to whomſoever you pleaſe to order to receive it. It not a little ſurpriſes us to find the following ſentence in your Secretary's letter of the ſixteenth inſtant, " and are ignorant of any law-ſuits having been carried on," when the ſuit above-mentioned has gone regularly through the Mayor's Court, and the Court of

*Appeals here, and the petition of appeal was abſolutely lodged in the proper office or Court in *England*.

Pleaſe to accept our thanks for the information of the Preſident's intentions of applying to the Miniſters for a perwânah to the Fowzdar of *Silhett*, and for your writing to the Chief and Council of *Dacca*.

After receiving your Secretary's letter of the eleventh inſtant, wherein there is not the leaſt objection made to any of the articles ſet forth in our addreſs to you of the eighth inſtant (on the contrary, he therein acquaints us, you will very readily afford us all the aſſiſtance in your power for the recovery of Mr. *Bolts*'s outſtanding concerns, but that you deem it neceſſary to have a ſtatement of them, atteſted on oath to be true, to the beſt of our knowledge, which we inſtantly complied with) that part of your Secretary's letter of the ſixteenth inſtant, reſpecting the ſalt concerns, greatly ſurprized us; more eſpecially as we had, in conſequence of your Secretary's ſaid letter of the eleventh inſtant, given Mr. *Bolts*'s creditors hopes of a ſpeedy payment. Thoſe contracts for ſalt were all, not only begun, but concluded prior to the iſſuing of the orders you mention; therefore Mr. *Bolts* apprehends ſuch orders, or advertiſements, could not affect his tranſactions, being antecedent, and thoſe orders, relative to future ones. We cannot preſume to judge what the Company meant by their directions farther than from the tenor of them. In Mr. *Bolts*'s letter to the Court of Directors, dated in *London*, the 26th of *May* 1769, he mentions (with other places) his concerns at *Roymungul*, *Culneah*, *Ingellee*, and *Hoogly*: and as there are now gentlemen in the direction who have a competent knowledge of the trade of *Bengal*, and what returns are to be had from the different places ſpecified in his ſaid letter, they conſequently knew, that from thoſe four above-mentioned places he could have no outſtanding balances to collect in, or goods to export, excepting ſalt, and for ſalt, as it is notorious that, excepting very trifling ones, there are no other articles of commerce in thoſe places; and by his ſaid letter it ſeems natural to conclude, that his concerns there were capital. We therefore, with all deference, think the Court of Directors would particularly have excepted to that article, had not their intentions been as general as their order, of which Mr. *Bolts* procured and ſent us a copy. We farther beg leave to obſerve, that the ſaving and recovering, or the contrary, of Mr. *Bolts*'s property in *Bengal*, will be more conſiderably affected by your determination, in reſpect to this article of ſalt than any other; and of courſe the payment or non-payment of the principal part of his creditors. There remains one thing more which we conceive to be worthy your notice on this ſubject, which is, all the contracts for ſalt, excepting a ſmall one at *Tumlook*, were made by and on account of *John Matthias Roſs*, Eſq; at *Chinſurah*, from whom Mr. *Bolts* bought them at a premium on the price contracted for; ſo that with reſpect either to the advertiſements at *Calcutta*, or the perwânah from the Nabob (*Mahommed Reza Khawn*) to the Fowzdar of *Ingellee*, at *Hoogly*, prohibiting *Europeans* from trading in this article, dated the 25th of *October* 1767, theſe contracts are of a prior date. The duties paid to the

* The very Preſident and Council themſelves forming the ſaid Court of Appeals, and being themſelves the Plaintiffs in the original ſuit of the exiſtence whereof they pretended ignorance.

Cuſtom-

Cuſtom-maſter, in *Calcutta*, were in the name of *Roda Canto Roy*, Ct. Rs. 38 . 10 . 6, amount of duty on 700 maunds, and Ct. Rs. 147 . 8 . 3, amount of duty on 2700 maunds of Salt, but the ſalt was abſolutely the property of Mr. *William Bolts*; and as to the other duties paid at *Culneah*, they amount to ſicca rupees 11,223 . 1 . 3; at *Conjere* or *Khanjah* ſicca rupees 2,272 . 10 . 9; on ſalt ſent to *Joynagore* ſicca rupees 900, and at *Tumlook* ſicca rupees 230. Beſides which, the purchaſers of the ſalt deducted the amount of the duties (to be paid to the ſundry collectors when exported) from the purchaſe price, giving ſo much leſs than the Committee's ſalt ſold for at the time, conſequently Mr. *Bolts* received ſo much ſhort of the market-price: but, if required, we will deliver you an exact account of duties paid and of the deductions made at the different places of ſale and collection.

Concerning the loſs on beetlenut, at *Patna*, you have not yet favoured us with your determinations, which we ſhall be obliged to you for.

We have now, gentlemen, to requeſt the favour of your granting us a letter to the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah*, for obtaining the performance of nine perwânahs, granted to Mr. *Bolts*, upon his zemindars for 27,000 rupees worth of ſaltpetre, to be paid for at the original price which that article bears in their reſpective diſtricts. They are as follow:

One perwânah	on *Futty Ally Khawn*	for the worth of	rupees	3000
One ditto	*Rajah Bulwantſing*	for	ditto	3000
One ditto	*Golaum Huſſein Khawn*	for	ditto	3000
One ditto	*Ray Dindayaul*	for	ditto	3000
One ditto	*Rajah Bowanyſing*	for	ditto	3000
One ditto	*Noor Mahommed Beg Khawn Bahadre*	for	ditto	3000
One ditto	*Hyder Beg Khawn Bahadre*	for	ditto	3000
One ditto	*Ray Keerpa Dayall*	for	ditto	3000
One ditto	*Ally Beg Khawn Bahadre*	for	ditto	3000

We alſo requeſt you will favour us with a copy of the ſaid letter to *Sujah al Dowlah*, in order to our forming a judgment whether it may be neceſſary to ſend up the gomaſtahs and the money, that we may not incur any charges without a probability of ſucceſs, and alſo to ſend it home to our conſtituent, Mr. *William Bolts*. By letting us know your determinations on the foregoing ſubjects as ſoon as poſſible, we ſhall eſteem ourſelves much obliged to you, being very anxious to write Mr. *Bolts* fully on theſe important concerns; and as we ſhall be under the diſagreeable neceſſity of ſending him proteſts for all damages that may accrue from refuſals.

We beg leave to intrude upon your patience for a few lines now in behalf of ourſelves, to aſſure you, gentlemen, that though we are deſirous to do our duty to our conſtituent, Mr. *William Bolts*, to the utmoſt of our abilities, yet it will, at the ſame time, give us pleaſure ſo to conduct ourſelves as to merit your approbation. When you reflect upon the nature of theſe concerns, the great and critical truſt repoſed in us, and that, in fact, we are only the channel through which Mr. *Bolts* makes his applications, which we muſt either execute according to his inſtructions, or betray the confidence he has placed in us, we

are

are induced to think, you will not in any reſpect diſapprove of our conduct. Mr. *Verelſt* having many times *declared himſelf our enemy*, as alſo to the partnerſhip we were then connected with, merely for acting with that fidelity to Mr. *Bolts* which we preſume ought to have been our recommendation, we hope will apologize for this intruſion, not that we apprehend there is any reaſon to expect ſuch prepoſſeſſions againſt us from the gentleman now preſiding at your Board.

We are, with reſpect, GENTLEMEN,
Your moſt obedient humble ſervants,
(Signed) PETER REED and
JOSEPH CATOR,
Acting Attornies to Mr. *William Bolts*."

Calcutta,
22*d Jan.* 1770.

Which letter the Preſident and Council cauſed to be anſwered by their Secretary, under date of the twenty-third inſtant, in the following words, that is to ſay,

"To Meſſrs. *Peter Reed* and *Joſeph Cator*, acting Attornies to Mr. *William Bolts*.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE the commands of the Honourable the Preſident and Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter to them, dated the 22d inſtant, and to reply thereto.

The ſum you have tendered them, of current rupees 1301 . 6 . 6, the Board will receive as part payment of the demand before made on you, but as ſuch only; and if you are averſe to paying it on theſe terms, it muſt be referred to the Court of Directors.

If the contracts for ſalt entered into by Mr. *Bolts* were made, or if he bought them of any perſon before the ſociety of trade was diſſolved, his claim is invalidated by the agreement he entered into with that ſociety; and he is liable to the penalty ſtipulated therein. If it was a tranſaction after the ſociety was diſſolved, he then was guilty of a breach of the Company's orders, and acted in direct oppoſition to the reſtrictive perwânahs iſſued by THE *NABOB; ſo that in either caſe, the Honourable the Preſident and Council apprehend Mr. *Bolts* cannot, with any colour of juſtice, requeſt their aſſiſtance to collect in theſe concerns, nor can they, with any degree of propriety, grant it.

If the demands upon the Zemindars, under the authority of the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah*, were made in conſequence of actual advances they had received, the Board would readily make the application to his Excellency you deſire: but as it does not appear to them, that theſe perwânahs have been granted for advances made by Mr. *Bolts*; they rather conceive it to be *an act of indulgence ſhewn to him by his* † *Excellency*, in granting them before Mr.

* The Reader will pleaſe continually to keep in his mind, the uſes made of Nabobs.

† Whom ſome of theſe very Gentlemen had before repreſented as deſirous of removing *Bolts*'s Agents out of his dominions.

Bolts

Bolts had made advances, which the Nabob may revoke at pleaſure; and not a mercantile tranſaction, wherein Mr. *Bolts* can claim their aſſiſtance.

I muſt now inform you, gentlemen, that the Board are greatly ſurpriſed and diſpleaſed at the very unbecoming reflection you have caſt upon Mr. *Verelſt*: a reflection which they deem highly improper in you to make, and equally injurious to the character of that gentleman.

I am, GENTLEMEN,

Fort William, Your moſt obedient ſervant,

23*d Jan.* 1770. (Signed) EDWARD BABER, Secretary."

To this laſt letter the ſaid *Peter Reed* and *Joſeph Cator* wrote another letter, dated the twenty-ſeventh inſtant, being in the following words, that is to ſay,

" To the Honourable *John Cartier*, Eſq; Preſident, and the Council of *Fort William*.

GENTLEMEN,

YOUR Secretary's letter of the twenty-third inſtant we received this day. According to our inſtructions from Mr. *Bolts*, we cannot pay the balance of Ct. Rs. 1301 . 6 . 6, on any other terms than your giving us a receipt in full.

As the contracts for ſalt were made after it was publickly known, that the ſociety of trade was diſſolved, by order of the Court of Directors, and prior to any reſtrictive perwânahs iſſued by the Nabob, Mr. *Bolts* deems his purchaſe legal, either with reſpect to the Society or the Company's orders; but having received your determinations on that head, we will not intrude farther on your time regarding it.

We requeſt the favour of your anſwer concerning the loſs ſuſtained by Mr. *Bolts* on his beetlenut at *Patna*, as mentioned in our letter to you of the eighth inſtant; and alſo your reſolution with reſpect to the letter to the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah*, which we applied to you for in our laſt; as the paragraph in your Secretary's ſaid letter, of the twenty-third inſtant, ſeems to be rather an opinion than your determination on that ſubject.

We are ſorry, gentlemen, that you have taken offence at the mention made of Mr. *Verelſt*, in our laſt, for though true in all its circumſtances, had we thought it would have diſpleaſed you, we would have been ſilent on the ſubject.

We are, with reſpect, GENTLEMEN,

Calcutta, Your moſt obedient humble ſervants,

27*th Jan.* 1770. (Signed) PETER REED and JOSEPH CATOR,

Acting Attornies to Mr. *William Bolts*.

To which letter the ſaid Honourable Preſident and Council have not yet ſent any anſwer, or afforded any aſſiſtance to the ſaid *Peter Reed* and *Joſeph Cator*, as Attornies for the ſaid *William Bolts*, towards the recovery of the ſaid *William Bolts*'s outſtanding concerns, agreeable to the order from the ſaid Court

Court of Directors to the ſaid Preſident and Council, ſave and except what is promiſed in their ſaid Secretary's letter, dated the ſixteenth of *January*.

For which refuſal, the ſaid *Peter Reed* and *Joſeph Cator*, in behalf of themſelves and others, Attornies for the ſaid *William Bolts*, requeſted me to proteſt againſt the ſaid Preſident and Council, now reſiding at *Calcutta*, the ſaid Honourable *John Cartier*, Eſq; Preſident, *Claud Ruſſell*, *Charles Ffloyer*, *Francis Hare*, *Joſeph Jekyll*, and *Richard Barwell*, Eſquires, Council, agents and repreſentatives for the affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies*, and all others concerned with them, or any of them, for all loſs, damages, coſts, charges, intereſt, and expences already had, ſuffered, ſuſtained, accrued, or happened, or which hereafter ſhall or may be ſuffered, ſuſtained, accrue, or happen to the ſaid *William Bolts* by the ſaid Honourable *John Cartier*, Eſq; Preſident, *Claud Ruſſell*, *Charles Ffloyer*, *Francis Hare*, *Joſeph Jekyll*, and *Richard Barwell*, Eſquires, Council, their refuſing to aſſiſt the ſaid *Peter Reed* and *Joſeph Cator*, the acting attornies for the ſaid *William Bolts*, to recover the ſaid *William Bolts*'s outſtanding concerns at different aurungs in *India*, namely, *Silhett*, *Dacca*, *Culneah*, *Conjere* or *Khanjah*, *Baſſen-Ghautta*, *Tumlook*, *Salkee*, *Patna*, and ſundry other places; and particularly for not granting letters to *Sujah al Dowlah* for the performance of nine perwânahs for the delivery of twenty-ſeven thouſand rupees worth of ſaltpetre; and for want of which aſſiſtance, the ſaid *Peter Reed* and *Joſeph Cator*, as acting attornies for the ſaid *William Bolts*, will not be able to pay off the ſaid *William Bolts*'s creditors to the amount of two lacks and upwards, of rupees.

Wherefore I, the ſaid notary, at the requeſt aforeſaid, have proteſted, and by theſe preſents do proteſt againſt the ſaid Honourable *John Cartier*, Eſq; Preſident, *Claud Ruſſell*, *Charles Ffloyer*, *Francis Hare*, *Joſeph Jekyll*, and *Richard Barwell*, Eſquires, Council, Agents, and Repreſentatives for the affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies*, and all others concerned with them, or any of them, for all loſs, damages, coſts, charges, intereſt, and expences already had, ſuffered, ſuſtained, accrued, or happened, or which hereafter ſhall or may be ſuffered, ſuſtained, accrue, or happen to the ſaid *William Bolts* by the ſaid *John Cartier*, Eſq; Preſident, *Claud Ruſſell*, *Charles Ffloyer*, *Francis Hare*, *Joſeph Jekyll*, and *Richard Barwell*, Eſquires, Council, their not aſſiſting the ſaid *Peter Reed* and *Joſeph Cator*, the acting Attornies for the ſaid *William Bolts*, to recover the ſaid *William Bolts*'s outſtanding concerns at different aurungs in *India* as aforeſaid.

Thus done and proteſted in the preſence of *Paſchal Deſſa* and *Nicholas Jebb* witneſſes.

J. MAY, Not. Pub. [L. S.]

(A true copy.)

(Signed) J. MAY, Not. Pub.

To all who ſhall ſee theſe preſents, or hear them read, I, *John Levett*, Eſq; Mayor, at *Calcutta*, or *Fort William*, in *Bengal*, do hereby make known, and certify,

certify, that *John May*, who hath ſigned and ſealed the certificate hereunto annexed, is a Notary Publick, by lawful authority admitted and ſworn, dwelling in this town of *Calcutta* aforeſaid; and that to Acts, Inſtruments, Procurations, and other writings, by him ſigned and atteſted, full faith and credit is given in Court or without.

The Mayor's Court Seal.

In faith and teſtimony whereof, I, the ſaid Mayor, have cauſed the ſeal of the Office of Mayoralty of *Calcutta* aforeſaid to be hereunto put and affixed; and the copy of the Proteſt, mentioned in the ſaid Certificate, to be alſo hereunto annexed. Dated, in *Calcutta* aforeſaid, this twenty-fourth day of *February*, in the year of our Lord one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventy.

J. MAY. *Reg.*

JOHN LEVETT, Mayor.

I, *John May*, Notary Public, dwelling and practiſing at *Calcutta*, or *Fort William*, in *Bengal*, by lawful authority admitted and ſworn, do hereby certify and atteſt, That the within writing is a true copy of a Proteſt, carefully collated by me with the original, entered in my Notarial Book.

In faith and teſtimony whereof, I have hereunto ſet my hand and ſeal at *Calcutta* aforeſaid, the twenty-fourth day of *February*, in the year of our Lord one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventy.

(Signed) J. MAY, Not. Pub. L. S.

NUM. LIII.

EXTRACTS of a Letter from the Court of East India *Directors to their Preſident and Council at* Fort William *in* Bengal. *Dated* London, 23*d* March 1770.

Par. LXXXIII. IN your letter of the 13th *September*, Par. XCVII. and XCIX. you adviſe you had diſmiſſed Mr. *Edward Fenwick* for giving to Mr. *Bolts* copy of a minute delivered in by Colonel *Smith*, and in your advices of the 28th *March* following, Par. XXXVIII. you write, that you had ſince been induced, from a repreſentation of his ſituation and circumſtances, to permit of his remaining in *India* till our pleaſure was known. As ſuch acts of infidelity require examples ſhould be made of the guilty, we approve of your proceedings, but in conſideration of his youth and your repreſentation of his caſe, we have agreed to re-admit him into the ſervice, to rank next below *James Engliſh Keighley*, and you are to call him before the Board and reprimand him for his late imprudent conduct.

LXXXVIII. The complaints of Mr. *William Bolts* to us, and his appeals to the Public againſt the Preſident and Council of *Calcutta*, and alſo the Select Committee there, are of too ſerious and intereſting a nature, not to deſerve our particular attention and conſideration.

LXXXIX. We have ordered a full ſtate of his caſe, and every material circumſtance attending it, collected from the different accounts and papers we have been furniſhed with (except what regarded his Agents the *Armenian* Merchants who are now in *London*, and of whom we ſhall hereafter make mention) to be laid before the moſt eminent Counſel in this country, as well as the Company's Standing Counſel, and we ſhall now communicate to you the ſubſtance of their concurrent opinions upon different points reſpecting this affair, as well as our directions for the future regulation of your conduct in matters of the like nature.

XC. By an Act of Parliament, 9th *George* the Firſt, a covenanted ſervant of the Company who has been diſmiſſed, or has reſigned, may have notice given him to quit *India*, in caſe he is not otherwiſe lawfully authorized to continue there. And if ſuch perſon ſhall refuſe to depart from the *Eaſt Indies*, after reaſonable time allowed (twelve months in ordinary caſes ſeem very ſufficient) for ſettling his accounts, and calling in his effects, he will be liable to be ſeized, and brought to *England*, and proſecuted as an offender, according to the proviſions of that ſtatute. But this power ought to be very tenderly exerciſed in all caſes, and only for the ſake of public good, where the privileges and commerce of the Company are invaded by ſuch offenders, their regulations violated, and their *European* or *Indian* enemies abetted and ſupported. In the preſent caſe, the Preſident and Council appear, from the * papers, to have had juſt grounds of diſſatisfaction with Mr. *Bolts*: but they have given him conſiderable advantages againſt themſelves, in the courſe of their proceedings.

Firſt, The appointment of him to the office of Alderman, after the letter of ſuſpenſion in *Auguſt* 1766, amounts, in law, to a licence to remain in *India* (though not to trade there) the very nature of his duty and office, under the charter for eſtabliſhing Courts of Juſtice in *Bengal*, requiring his acceptance of the office, and his attendance, under penalties. The conſequence of this is, that every notice to depart ſubſequent to his nomination as an Alderman, till after a legal removal from that office, may be conſidered as void in law; being given to a perſon not found, or being in the *Eaſt Indies* without licence, but (as the above-mentioned ſtatute 9th *George* the Firſt expreſſes it) lawfully authorized thereunto. The office of Alderman continues for life: and can be vacated only by voluntary departure, or by amotion for reaſonable cauſe, in the judicial manner required by the Charter; therefore *an Alderman is leſs dependent on the diſcretionary powers of the Preſident and Council than a Free-merchant*, whoſe licence is expired, or a mere ſervant, who is diſmiſſed, or has reſigned.—It is not improbable, that Mr. *Bolts* reſigned the ſervice of the Company in *November* 1766, in order to avail himſelf of the benefit of this diſtinction.

* Papers clandeſtinely drawn up and tranſmitted to the Directors, without one fact to juſtify them.

Secondly,

Secondly, It is extremely doubtful, whether Mr. *Bolts* has been duly and legally removed from his office of Alderman. As to the offence charged upon him, in the endeavouring to ſecrete and ſuppreſs, or to render ineffectual his indentures with the Company, for the ſake of defeating any action for breach of his covenants, it ſeems clear, that (by reaſon of the relation which the different branches which the Company's ſervice bear to each other, and to the whole of their conſtitution) a miſbehaviour, or miſdemeanour ſo deſcribed, might be the foundation of a complaint againſt him in his corporate capacity, and, if fully charged and proved, be a reaſonable cauſe of amotion. But it appears, that no ſteps were taken for that purpoſe from *November* 1766, when he reſigned, till long after the notices to depart, and the peremptory order of *May* 4th * 1768, that he ſhould be ſent to *Europe* by the firſt ſhip diſpatched that ſeaſon. The information againſt him was not exhibited till the end of *Auguſt* 1768, within leſs than a month of his ſeizure; not ſo much by way of original complaint ſeemingly, as by way of recrimination, to retaliate for his preſentment to the Grand Jury, and his ſeveral proteſts and proſecutions of *Baber* and *Roughton*, the Clerk of the Peace and Secretary of the Select Committee. The matter of the information ought alſo to be conſidered. It ſuggeſts merely an accuſation for ſigning the new covenants, not with his own hand, but by his writer, which Mr. *Bolts* will be adviſed by his Counſel, was equally binding in law, with his own ſignature: and they will excuſe it by ſaying, that no man of common ſenſe could be abſurd enough to think otherwiſe, and that his inducement to it might be an idle, but innocent one, to evade *a raſh oath which he had ſworn, that he would never ſign them.*—*Baber's* evidence indeed goes materially farther than the information, and charges him with a different offence, though not put in iſſue, *viz.* with endeavouring artfully to procure a re-delivery of the deed into his own cuſtody, with SOME BAD DESIGN NOT EXPLAINED BY THE WITNESS; (and therefore it is impoſſible to ſay what the offence is) under colour of re-executing it. Beſides this, the ſummons is defective, in not ſpecially requiring Mr. *Bolts* to ſhew cauſe why he ſhould not be removed (according to the ſpecial authority given by the Charter) from the office of Alderman, on account of his offence: whereas neither the ſummons or information takes any notice of his removal, or what was intended by them; and the ſentence pronounced againſt him upon the 5th of *September* 1768, only declares him *diſqualified*; but is no formal, or regular judgment of amotion, or removal.

XCI. Some of theſe objections might probably be held too ſtrict, in an action for damages brought by Mr. *Bolts* againſt the Preſident, or Council; but if the amotion ſhould be deemed valid in a Court of Law in *England*, ſtill it ſeems neceſſary to have given him a new notice for his departure out of *India*, after ſuch removal from his office of Alderman, and that the time which intervened between the day of the ſentence and the day of ſeizing his perſon, that is, between the † 5th and 23d *September*, was by much too ſhort. On the

* There was no order, but only a reſolution entered into by the Preſident and Council, on the 4th *May* 1768. See Letter F, Num. XXIII. Page 483.

† *Bolts* was not acquainted with the ſentence until the 13th *September* 1763. See F, Num. XXXV. Page 522.

other hand, it is true, that *the Preſident and Council appear to have acted without any ill intention towards the Company, but not with that coolneſs and circumſpection we could have wiſhed.*

XCII. As to Mr. *Bolts*'s complaints, that the witneſſes were not permitted to be examined in ſupport of his petition or preſentment to the Grand Jury, on the 27th *May* 1768, there is no doubt but that the * offer made by the Court, to adjourn to another day, in order that the witneſſes might be regularly ſummoned, or ſerved with ſubpœnas, was conſiſtent with juſtice and the rules of proceeding. Neither the proſecutor nor the Grand Jury were intitled to the aid of the Court upon the ſudden, for the purpoſe of compelling witneſſes in the manner it was aſked. But if the witneſſes had been duly ſerved with ſubpœnas to appear, in that caſe, any objections to the examination of them, ariſing from the duty of their offices and obligations to ſecreſy, muſt have been made by the witneſſes themſelves, at the time of their examination, and propoſed to the Court for their judgment.

XCIII. We are clearly of opinion upon the whole, that the proceedings againſt Mr. *Bolts* HAVE NOT BEEN SUFFICIENTLY REGULAR AND CAUTIOUS, and that the event of an action for falſe impriſonment (if any ſhall be brought hereafter) againſt the Preſident, or any of the Council, will depend much on the impreſſion which the various circumſtances of the caſe may make upon a jury. If Mr. *Bolts* ſhall appear to the Court and jury to have been well removed from his office of Alderman, and to have acted with inſolence towards his ſuperiors, and in breach of his duty to the Company, he will fail in his action: but in caſe his amotion from his corporate office ſhall be held illegal, it is probable that he will recover conſiderable damages, as a perſon ſeized and ſent home without warrant from the ſtatute, and conſequently contrary to law.

XCIV. It is indeed matter of aſtoniſhment to us, that Mr. *Bolts*, who was actually under a conditional ſuſpenſion in *Auguſt* 1766, ſhould, during that period, be elected into the office of Alderman, by the Preſident and Council, who only could chuſe him; which office, though it confers on him no authority, or licence to trade after actual reſignation, or diſmiſſion, yet certainly it impowers him to reſide in *India*, and obliges him to perform the duty of his office for life, unleſs he ſhould be guilty of ſome offence, amounting to a juſt cauſe of diſmiſſion, or amotion from that office, according to the charter of juſtice.

XCV. The Select Committee moſt clearly are not impowered to act in a judicial capacity. They can adminiſter no oath, nor compel perſons or parties to appear before them, either to give them evidence, or to anſwer accuſations, or charges againſt them; nor can they make decrees, or pronounce legal judgment.—In matters very important and intereſting to the Company, they do well to inquire into, and inveſtigate them to the bottom: but this muſt be done upon voluntary information and evidence, and parties accuſed ſhould have reaſonable notice and time given to juſtify themſelves, if they

* This was an error into which both the Directors and their Counſel were led by the falſification of the records of the 27th *May* 1768. See F, Num. XXV. Page 488.

can,

can, whether they chuſe to appear or not. If upon good evidence (which, when taken *viva voce*, the witneſs muſt be ſworn to before a Magiſtrate capable of adminiſtering an oath, who ſhould likewiſe be preſent at the examination and diſcuſſion of the matter, or if taken in writing, ſuch depoſitions ſhould, in like manner, be duly ſworn before a Magiſtrate) the facts and charges are properly made out and ſupported, in caſe the matter ſhould be an object of civil juriſdiction, there is a court always open for hearing and determining the ſame; if, on the other hand, it ſhould be a ground for criminal proſecution, there is a Court of juſtice legally eſtabliſhed, before which ſuch offences ſhould be brought and tried. If the charges ſo proved ſhould not be proper ſubjects of civil or criminal juriſdiction, but rather of a political nature, tending to affect the Company's rights and intereſts, or to diſturb the Government or repoſe of the country; we think that although the Select Committee may have power to diſmiſs from the Company's ſervice, ſuſpend, or cenſure the guilty parties, yet it may be more prudent to let ſuch diſmiſſions, ſuſpenſions, or cenſures proceed from the Preſident and Council in that public capacity, and as their act.—There may be times and circumſtances when this may be impolitic, or impracticable: and therefore what is now ſuggeſted is more properly matter of advice and recommendation, than of abſolute direction, as we are ſenſible no general rule, or order can be eſtabliſhed.

XCVI. The creditors of Mr. *William Bolts* have preſented a requeſt to us, agreeable to the incloſed copy, deſiring we would ſend directions to our ſeveral ſettlements, to give every neceſſary and proper aſſiſtance to his Attornies, or Agents, for ſecuring, collecting, and remitting to *England* of his outſtanding concerns. It is therefore our poſitive direction, that you comply with their requeſt accordingly.

CLXXII. We have laid the ſeveral Paragraphs of your advices received laſt ſeaſon, relating to law matters, before our Standing Counſel, and received his opinion thereon, a copy of which comes a number in the packet.

CLXXIII. By the *Shrewſbury*, we received your * anſwer to Mr. *Bolts*'s Appeal to the King and Council, for removing him from being an Alderman of the Mayor's Court; but you omitted to ſend the proceedings relating thereto properly authenticated under the Seal of the Company, ſo as to become evidence before the Lords of Council: which you ought certainly to have done, and more eſpecially as they were granted to Mr. *Bolts*, or his Attorney, as ſet forth in his Petition to his Majeſty, to which we have been obliged to have recourſe. You muſt not fail ſending by the firſt opportunity, in duplicate, all the proceedings reſpecting his removal, under the ſeal of the Company, and atteſted by the Clerk of Appeals: and in all caſes for the future, where you have any apprehenſion that Appeals are intended, you muſt forthwith ſend the proceedings, properly authenticated under the ſeal of the Company, to be made uſe of here for their defence.

CLXXIV. You will obſerve, that your anſwer to Mr. *Bolts*'s Petition of Appeal, lodged in *India*, conſtitutes no part of the proceedings; for it was out of courſe and practice to make any anſwer to it, either by way of plea,

* An extract of which is given under this Letter F, Num. XLIX. Page 537.

demurrer,

demurrer, or otherwiſe; nor is any part of the proceedings in the Mayor's Court relevant to this ſentence againſt Mr. *Bolts*, which could only be brought before the Governor and Council: and therefore the tranſcript, or copy you are to tranſmit, is to * end with your letter, giving notice of your judgment, and his removal from the office of Alderman of the Mayor's Court.

CLXXV. In the *Shrewſbury*'s packet, we received a declaration of Mr. *Thomas Kelſall*, Chief at *Dacca*, on oath, reciting a converſation that paſſed between him and Mr. *Daniel Lankheet*, relative to a clandeſtine trade carried on at *Dacca* between Mr. *Bolts* and Mr. *Vernet* the *Dutch* Governor at *Chinſurah*, to a very great amount, in prejudice to the Company's inveſtment. But as this repreſentation is not authenticated, either by Mr. *Lankheet*'s affidavit, or any other evidence, we cannot make any other uſe of it, IN JUSTIFICATION FOR YOUR SENDING MR. BOLTS TO ENGLAND IN THE MANNER YOU DID; but we hope and expect that you have made a very ſtrict inquiry into this affair, and puniſhed ſuch of our ſervants as have been found guilty of ſuch notorious infidelity to their employers; and we deſire you will not fail to tranſmit the whole of your proceedings in this reſpect to us, authenticated in the cleareſt and fulleſt manner, *ſo as to be made uſe of as evidence in the Courts of Record here*, if there ſhould be a neceſſity ſo to do in order to obtain juſtice and ſatisfaction to the Company for this offence.—Mr. *Lankheet*'s information at large, upon oath, touching this tranſaction, ſeems to be the moſt material evidence, and we hope you will be able to obtain it.

(Signed)	G. COLEBROOKE,	BEN. BOOTH,
	P. CUST,	GEO. CUMING,
	H. CRABB BOULTON,	JOHN WOODHOUSE,
	J. PURLING,	WILLIAM JAMES,
	FREDERICK PIGOU,	HENRY FLETCHER,
	JOHN HARRISON,	GEORGE DEMPSTER,
	RICHARD BOSANQUET,	CHARLES BODDAM,
	DANIEL WIER,	W. G. FREEMAN,
	WILLIAM SNELL,	L. SULIVAN,
	PETER DU CANE, Jun.	ROBERT GREGORY.

NUM. LIV.

COPY of a Letter from Meſſrs. Peter Reed *and* Joſeph Cator, *Attornies to* William Bolts; *addreſſed to the Preſident and Council of* Calcutta, *repeating their Requeſt for Aſſiſtance in the Recovery of his outſtanding Concerns. Dated the 7th* November 1770.

To the Honourable *John Cartier*, Eſq; *&c.* Council at *Fort William.*

GENTLEMEN,

IN conſequence of a letter from Mr. *William Bolts*, incloſing a copy of a paragraph of the honourable Company's general letter to *Bengal*, dated the 23d *March* 1770, reſpecting his outſtanding concerns in theſe parts, which

* Very proper inſtructions for the *re-fabrication* of the records of a Court of Juſtice, two years after the termination of the matter in iſſue!

came to our hands lately, *per* the *Lord Mansfield*, we take the liberty to repeat our requeſt, for the favour of your aſſiſtance reſpecting the different heads mentioned in our addreſs to your honourable board, dated *Calcutta* the 8th *January* 1770, and ſworn to the 12th *January* 1770; and alſo in our addreſs to your honourable board, dated *Calcutta* the 22d *January* 1770, which contains a liſt of ſome of the unſettled and outſtanding concerns of that gentleman.

We are, with reſpect,
GENTLEMEN,
Your moſt obedient humble ſervants,
(Signed) PETER REED, and
JOSEPH CATOR,
Acting Attornies to *William Bolts*.

Calcutta,
7th Nov. 1770.

NUM. LV.

COPY of a Letter from Mr. Secretary Wynne, *by order of the Preſident and Council, to Meſſrs.* Peter Reed *and* Joſeph Cator, *Attornies to* William Bolts, *repeating their Refuſal of Aſſiſtance in the Recovery of his outſtanding Concerns. Dated* Calcutta, *the* 29*th* November 1770.

To Meſſrs. *Peter Reed* and *Joſeph Cator*, acting Attornies to Mr. *William Bolts*.

GENTLEMEN,

THE Honourable the Preſident and Council have directed me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th *ultimo*, and to inform you, in anſwer, that they have already given you every aſſiſtance in their power toward the recovery of thoſe balances, which were outſtanding at *Silhett* and *Dacca*, and by requeſting *from the Miniſters* a perwânah to the *Fowzdar* of *Silhett*; and they are ready, if thoſe have not produced the deſired effect, to repeat and enforce them.

I am ordered likewiſe to inform you, that they can give you no other anſwer, reſpecting your other demands, than what they have already ſent you, their *duty to the Company not permitting them to aſſiſt any perſon* in the recovery of balances incurred in an illicit trade publicly prohibited by the Company.

Their anſwer of the 23d *January* laſt, to your application for their aſſiſtance in obtaining the performance of nine perwânahs, granted by the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah* to Mr. *Bolts*, they now refer you to, as definitive.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your humble ſervant,
(Signed) W. WYNNE, Sec.

Fort William,
29*th Nov.* 1770.

NUM.

NUM. LVI.

EXTRACT of a general Letter from the Preſident and Council of Bengal *to the Court of* Eaſt India *Directors. Dated* Calcutta, *the* 2*d* April 1771.

Par. XVI. WE can only lament that Mr. *Kelſall*'s affidavit, of the converſation that paſſed betwixt him and Mr. *Daniel Lankheet*, relative to the clandeſtine trade carrying on by Mr. *Bolts*, jointly with Mr. *Vernet*, at *Dacca*, ſhould not be of ſufficient validity to be made uſe of as evidence in a Court of Record. Either Mr. *Kelſall*'s or Mr. *Lankheet*'s abſence from *Dacca* has fruſtrated any endeavours on the part of the former, to obtain from Mr. *Lankheet* an authentic teſtimony of this tranſaction; nor indeed do we ſuppoſe that gentleman could give ſuch teſtimony, without ſubjecting himſelf to ſevere perſecutions from his own nation.

XVII. We have no reaſon to believe, that any other * Company's ſervant was engaged in this undertaking. On the contrary, it appears to have been a joint concern of Meſſrs. *Bolts* and *Vernet* ſolely; and was, as we learn, proſecuted by one *Cogee Miguel Sarkis*, an *Armenian* agent of Mr. *Bolts*'s, upon Mr. *Lankheet*'s declining the commiſſion.

(Signed) JOHN CARTIER,
THOMAS KELSALL,
CHARLES FFLOYER,
JOHN REED,
FRANCIS HARE.

NUM. LVII.

EXTRACT from the general Letter written by the Court of Eaſt India *Directors to their Preſident and Council at* Bengal. *Dated the 25th* March 1772.

Par. LXVIII. WE have permitted Captain *Robert Coxe* to return to his rank on your military eſtabliſhment; and in conſideration of his expences, trouble, and attendance, as a witneſs in the ſuit at law inſtituted by Mr. *Bolts*, we have preſented him with one hundred pounds to defray the charges of his return to *Bengal*, on his bond, to repay the ſame out of his growing pay and effects there, within twelve months after his arrival at your Preſidency; the bond is incloſed in the *Duke of Grafton*'s packet.

(Signed) J. PURLING, JOHN HARRISON,
GEO. DUDLEY, HENRY FLETCHER,
JOHN MANSHIP, J. HURLOCK,
FRED. PIGOU, WILL. JAMES,
JOHN ROBERTS, DAN. WIER,
JAMES COCKBURN, EDWARD WHELER,
GEORGE CUMING, L. SULIVAN,
JOHN WOODHOUSE, JOHN MICHIE,
JOSHUA SMITH, HENRY SAVAGE.

* The reader may be miſled by this expreſſion, if not informed, that at the period of the tranſaction here alluded to, Mr. *Bolts* was not a Company's ſervant.

LETTER G.

CONTAINING Proofs of the Perſecutions ſuffered in the Years 1768, 1769, &c. by Mr. *George Sparks*, Attorney at Law for *William Bolts*, in the Mayor's Court of *Calcutta*, in *Bengal*.

NUM. I.

COPY of a Letter from Harry Verelſt, *Eſq; Governor of* Bengal, *to the Honourable the Mayor's Court of* Calcutta; *complaining of the Attorney, Mr.* George Sparks, *and recommending him to be puniſhed. Dated the 8th* November 1768.

" To the Honourable the Mayor's Court at *Calcutta*, at *Fort William*.

GENTLEMEN,

AS I am informed that Mr. *George Sparks*, one of the attornies of your Court, propoſes reſigning of his employment in a ſhort time, I cannot, without injuſtice to my own character, and *being wanting in my duty to the public*, defer any longer my laying before you my complaint againſt him, and requeſt your examination of the caſe, that ſuch an offence may meet with proper puniſhment, in order to prevent others, in future, from *attempts to defame and vilify what is eſteemed moſt ſacred, their neighbour's good name and reputation.*

On the 23d day of *Auguſt* laſt, the ſaid *George Sparks* filed a bill in your Court, with his name ſubſcribed, and indorſed for *William Bolts*, complainant, againſt *Edward Baber*, defendant; which contains a moſt infamous and ſcandalous libel *againſt me.* He, at the ſame time, filed an exhibit therewith, marked A. number I. upon which he has likewiſe written, or indorſed his name; and at the time of filing it, he requeſted that it might be accepted, as part of the before-mentioned bill of complaint; which ſaid exhibit alſo contains a moſt ſcandalous and infamous libel againſt me. They were both drawn up, filed, and publiſhed by the ſaid *George Sparks*, and *William Bolts*, *with an intent to defame me*, and not with any intention of carrying on the cauſe with effect, or with any hopes of ſucceſs therein; for the ſaid *George Sparks*, on the——day of *October* laſt, acquainted the Court, that he would proceed no further therein; and upon the——day of *October* laſt, the ſaid bill of complaint was, in the preſence of the ſaid *George Sparks*, who did not object thereto, diſmiſſed with coſts.

On the ſaid 23d day of *Auguſt*, the ſaid *George Sparks* filed another bill, ſubſcribed and indorſed with his name, in your Court, for the ſaid *William Bolts*, complainant, againſt *Charles William Boughton*, defendant, containing a moſt infamous and ſcandalous libel *againſt me*; and he, at the ſame time, filed an exhibit therewith in your Court, marked A. number I. with his name ſubſcribed and indorſed, and requeſted that it might be accepted as part of the laſt-mentioned bill of complaint; which was drawn up, filed, and publiſhed by *George Sparks* and *William Bolts*, with intent of defaming my character, and no intention of proſecuting the cauſe with any effect, or with any hopes of ſucceſs; for the ſaid *George Sparks*, on the ſaid——day of *October*, acquainted the Court, that he ſhould proceed no further therein; and upon the——day of *October*, the laſt-mentioned bill of complaint was, in his preſence, he not objecting thereto, diſmiſſed with coſts.

And in order to aſperſe *my character* the more effectually, the ſaid *George Sparks* and *William Bolts* produced, on or about the 6th of *September* laſt, in your Court, one or more infamous and ſcandalous libels againſt me, with one or more affidavits to the truth thereof; and the ſaid *William Bolts*, upon the motion of *George Sparks*, was permitted to ſwear, and did ſolemnly ſwear; and to authenticate the ſame, the Mayor, and one or more of the Aldermen of this Court, upon the application of the ſaid *George Sparks*, did put their hands and ſeals, and likewiſe the ſeal of the ſaid Court; and the ſaid *George Sparks* alſo ſubſcribed his name thereto; and the ſaid libel or libels was or were drawn up, publiſhed, and procured to be authenticated by the ſaid *George Sparks* and *William Bolts*, and ſworn to by the ſaid *William Bolts*, *with a view to aſperſe and defame me*: and they ſent, or cauſed to be ſent, one part thereof immediately to *Edward Baber*, Secretary to the Council of *Fort William*; and I have the greateſt reaſon to believe, that they ſent, or cauſed to be ſent, one other part thereof to the Directors of the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies*, in order the more effectually *to defame and injure me.*

I therefore moſt earneſtly requeſt you will afford me an opportunity of laying before you the proofs of what I have here aſſerted, as I have great cauſe to ſuſpect, that the ſaid *George Sparks* will be induced to reſign his employment in your Court, by the hopes of evading inquiry into his conduct.

I am, with reſpect,

GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obedient,

and moſt humble ſervant,

(Signed) H. VERELST."

Fort William,
the 8th Oct. 1768."
But afterwards dated
the 8th *Nov.* 1768.

NUM.

NUM. II.

COPY of Mr. George Sparks's *Letter of the* 10*th* February 1769, *in anſwer to Governor* Vereliſt's *Letter of Complaint to the Mayor's Court of* Calcutta. *Dated the* 8*th* November 1768.

To the Honourable the Mayor's Court at *Calcutta*, at *Fort William*.

GENTLEMEN,

BEING called upon by you to anſwer the complaint of *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; exhibited againſt me, only by a letter from that gentleman, directed to this honourable Court; conſcious of my own innocence and integrity, and that I am far from being guilty of the charge laid againſt me by the ſaid Mr. *Verelſt*, and being now called (though in ſo unuſual a manner) to anſwer, by this honourable Court, I ſhew my obedience, by proceeding directly to my anſwer, in poſitively denying every article of the charge exhibited againſt me, in and by Mr. *Verelſt*, his ſaid letter.

And, firſt, I deny ever having even attempted to defame and vilify my neighbour's good name and reputation, nor can any thing in the bills of complaint filed by me in this honourable Court for *William Bolts*, complainant, againſt the defendants, *Edward Baber* and *Charles William Boughton*, ſhew the leaſt tendency to aſperſe the good name or reputation of Mr. *Verelſt*; and I moſt humbly requeſt, that this honourable Court will attentively peruſe the ſaid bills of complaint; and firſt, that againſt Mr. *Baber*, being the firſt mentioned in Mr. *Verelſt*, his ſaid letter, and point out the infamous and ſcandalous libel contained therein, againſt Mr. *Verelſt* (which I muſt confeſs, to this very day, has eſcaped my niceſt inſpection) and wherein conſiſts my crime, as an attorney of this Court, in filing the ſame.

I moſt humbly conceive, that in order to libel a man, he ought to be charged with ſomething ſcandalous, or defamatory, which may tend to aſperſe his character and reputation; or ſomething abſurd and ridiculous, which may tend to render him contemptible, and thereby promote quarrels, and excite himſelf or his friends to revenge them, and ſo cauſe a diſturbance of the King's peace. Nothing of this tendency can, I think, appear throughout the above-mentioned bill, *there being therein not one ſingle charge againſt Mr. Verelſt* of any kind whatſoever; nor do I find his name mentioned throughout the ſaid bill, but in the company of other gentlemen of the Council, againſt whom alſo nothing is charged. Mr. *Baber* is only aſked, whether, or no, Mr. *Verelſt*, with ſundry other gentlemen therein named, was not concerned in drawing up certain writings therein referred to? But ſurely that differs widely from ſaying he was concerned. This being granted, how he is libelled in and by the ſaid bill of complaint, is indeed beyond my utmoſt comprehenſion; unleſs it be deemed that his name is defamed and vilified (as the letter expreſſes it) by being at all inſerted in the ſaid bill.

Simply to aſk whether a man did a thing, and poſitively to aſſert he did do it, are of very different ſignification and tendency. Yet in the preſent caſe I do inſiſt, and will prove, that though Mr. *Vereliſt* had been poſitively charged with every thing and matter in ſaid bill whereto his name is mentioned, that it could not amount to a libel; for it is expreſly ſaid, that falſe and ſcandalous matter in a legal proceeding in a courſe of juſtice, by a bill of complaint, petition, *&c.* in a Court of Record, cannot amount to a libel. —Having now, as I humbly hope, proved to the ſatisfaction of this honourable Court, that the ſaid bills of complaint (for what already urged may ſerve alſo for that filed againſt *Charles William Boughton*) contain nothing that can be deemed an infamous and ſcandalous libel againſt Mr. *Vereliſt*, I proceed to ſpeak of the exhibits marked A. number I. and filed with the ſaid bills.

Exhibits are ſeparate and detached papers, ſeldom or never drawn by the attorney, being frequently letters, bonds, accounts, *&c.* and tend to prove the matter uſually contained in them, which is done either by interrogating the parties themſelves, or examining witneſſes, either to the hand-writing, ſigning, or matter contained therein; and as they are known, by the Court, not to be drawn by the attorney, ſo, be their contents what they will, the attorney was never thought to be any way accountable for them; and I have ſeen letters exhibited in this Court, containing moſt opprobrious and abuſive language, even to calling names, but never knew the attorney cenſured for filing them as exhibits. That the exhibits in queſtion are not of my drawing is ſelf-evident, from the nature of them, as will hereafter appear.

It now remains to ſpeak to the affidavit ſworn to by Mr. *Bolts*; and, as it ſeems, ſigned (though unknown) by me. In anſwer to this I can only ſay, that ſome time before Mr. *Bolts*, his tranſportation, he uſed to come to the bench, from whence he frequently gave me ſundry affidavits, ſome whereof were ſworn to by himſelf, and ſome by other deponents; and when they were authenticated, by the affixing the Court ſeal and thoſe of the ſigning members, I returned them to Mr. *Bolts* on the bench, without ever reading, or knowing the contents. But as he frequently delivered me theſe papers while the proceedings were reading, they uſed to lay on the table amongſt my other papers, till the Regiſter was at leiſure to adminiſter the oath; and if I ſigned it, it was done inadvertently, taking it for ſome other paper that was to be filed that day. Another proof of what I alledge is, that the ſigning it by me was no way neceſſary, ſince we are obliged to ſign no papers but what are filed in Court; but beſides this, I humbly conceive I am not culpable, in ſigning a paper under the Court ſeal, the hand and ſeal of the Mayor and one of the Aldermen, together with the Regiſter. Moreover, I never read the affidavit, which many of the Aldermen on the bench did; for I heard Mr. *Bolts* call to ſome of the members who were reading, to read no more than the affidavit: and it cannot be ſuppoſed, that they would ſet their hands and ſeals to any thing ſcandalous, or improper, or that (though it was needleſs) there could be any impropriety in my ſigning a paper ſo authenticated, as above ſet forth. I can therefore only repeat, gentlemen, that I know

know not, nor ever read the contents of the ſaid * affidavit, nor did I know I ſigned it.

Having now, gentlemen, ſpoken as amply to the matters of fact, as ſet forth in Mr. *Verelſt*'s ſaid letter, as it is in my power to do; after having aſſured this honourable Court and Mr. *Verelſt*, that I had not the leaſt intention to libel him, or in any ſort to aſperſe his character, or reputation, in any paper or papers whatſoever, by me at any time filed in this honourable Court, and more particularly in thoſe complained of by the ſaid Mr. *Verelſt* in and by his ſaid letter; and though I have, with the utmoſt attention, peruſed the ſaid papers (that is) the copies, as delivered me by the Regiſter of this honourable Court: I can find no part, or parcel thereof, that can merit the title of a moſt ſcandalous and infamous libel on Mr. *Verelſt*. And though I may ſtand convicted before this honourable Court, I never can be convinced of my having libelled Mr. *Verelſt* in the ſaid papers.

Having thus ſpoken to the matters of fact, it is now neceſſary to obviate the matters of conjecture, in ſaid letter contained. And here, gentlemen, if any one is libelled in this honourable Court, I have the greateſt reaſon to think it is myſelf; ſince Mr. *Verelſt* has, in his ſaid letter, not only aſſerted things touching the ſaid papers, which, from the face of them, appear abſolutely untrue, but has alſo arrogated to himſelf the power of penetrating the inmoſt receſſes of the heart. Not content with ſetting forth facts as they occurred, he hath alſo, in a moſt definitive manner, charged me with intentions of which I never had the leaſt idea, and pretended to know my hopes and expectations better than myſelf. To prove the firſt poſition, this honourable Court will pleaſe to obſerve the words of Mr. *Verelſt*, in his ſaid letter, touching the bill of complaint againſt Mr. *Baber*, which are as follows (to wit) "He (meaning me) at the ſame time filing an exhibit therewith, "marked A. number I. upon which he has likewiſe written, or indorſed his "name, and at the time of filing it, he requeſted that it might be accepted as "part of the before-mentioned bill of complaint, which ſaid exhibit alſo con"tains a moſt infamous and ſcandalous libel againſt me; they were both drawn "up, filed, and publiſhed by the ſaid *George Sparks* and *William Bolts*, with "an intent to defame me, and not with any intention of carrying on the cauſe "with effect; for the ſaid *George Sparks*, on the——day of *October* laſt, "acquainted the Court, that he would proceed no further in it; and upon "the——day of *October* laſt, the ſaid bill of complaint was, in the preſence "of the ſaid *George Sparks*, who did not object thereto, diſmiſſed with coſts."

To obviate this aſſertion, as well as that relating to the exhibit A. number I. filed alſo with the bill of complaint, againſt *Charles William Boughton*, which is expreſſed in the like-words, I beg leave to refer this honourable Court to the ſaid exhibits themſelves; and, firſt, that filed with the bill againſt Mr. *Baber*, which contains ſundry writings on various matters, not one of which was ever read by me, but ſince the copies have been delivered me out of the regiſtery of this Court. The firſt paper in the ſaid exhibit,

* The affidavit in queſtion is that dated the 6th *September* 1768, at the end of number XXXII. letter F. page 518.

as delivered me, is a * proteſt under the ſign Manual of, and ſeal of office of Mr. *John Holme*, ſenior, notary public of this place, againſt the juſtices of the ſeſſions of oyer and terminer, held in this Town-hall the twenty-ſeventh day of *May* laſt, and conſequently cannot be drawn nor publiſhed by me, ſince, as I am informed, this proteſt was ſerved on the ſaid juſtices long before Mr. *Bolts* was ſeized and tranſported beyond ſea. It is therefore ſurprizing, that Mr. *Verelſt* ſhould ſo poſitively aſſert, that the ſame was drawn up and publiſhed by me, or that (if the ſame is a libel) it was not deemed ſuch on the above-mentioned ſervice, when Mr. *Bolts* was upon the ſpot to have anſwered for it.

The next paper of ſaid exhibit, in the order I have them, is a copy of what is ſaid to be the proceedings of a general quarter ſeſſions of oyer and terminer, held at *Calcutta* the † 27th day of *May* 1768, and ſigned by Mr. *Edward Baber*, the then clerk of the peace; in which is alſo contained an information to the grand jury of that ſeſſions, by Mr. *Bolts*, and by him ſigned; an addreſs of the ſaid grand jury to the juſtices of the ſaid ſeſſions, ſigned by ‡ Mr. *Cornelius Goodwin*, as foreman thereof; and a certain paper, ſigned R. S. ſaid to be addreſſed to the board by Colonel *Richard Smith*, and dated the 4th of *May* 1768, together with a reſolution of the ſaid § board. And if theſe papers are deemed libels on Mr. *Verelſt*, ſurely I cannot be ſaid to be the author of them, notwithſtanding Mr. *Verelſt* has ſo fully charged me as ſuch, in and by his ſaid letter.

The exhibit marked A. number I. filed at the ſame time with the bill of complaint againſt Mr. *Boughton*, and which Mr. *Verelſt* alſo aſſerts, in his ſaid letter, to be drawn up, filed, and publiſhed by me, and containing a moſt infamous and ſcandalous libel againſt him, is no more than an original letter of about four lines, from ‖ Mr. *Alexander Campbell*, addreſſed to Mr. *Bolts*; and no other notice taken of it in the bill of complaint, than to aſk Mr. *Boughton*, whether the ſame is not written or ſigned by the ſaid Mr. *Campbell*: yet this is attributed to me as a libel on Mr. *Verelſt*. The truth of what is here ſet forth will appear from the above-mentioned papers, now in Court, and to which I humbly crave leave to refer. From all which it will appear, that I am the libelled perſon, by being charged as the author of papers, which, from the nature of them, prove the impoſſibility of the charge. Whether they are libels or not on Mr. *Verelſt*, this honourable Court can beſt determine.

I come, laſtly, to ſpeak to that part of Mr. *Verelſt*, his ſaid paper, wherein he aſſumes to himſelf the power of penetrating the ſecrets of the heart, and diſcovering the intentions of Mr. *Bolts* in filing the ſaid bills, and his hopes of ſucceſs in the ſaid ſuits. I cannot take upon me to ſay, what Mr. *Bolts*, his intentions, or hopes were; but for myſelf I anſwer, that I had no intention of filing thoſe bills to aſperſe the character of Mr. *Verelſt*, or any other

* See Letter F. Number XXVIII. page 494.
† Ibid. Number XXV. page 485.
‡ Ibid. page 487.
§ Ibid. Number XXIII. page 483.
‖ Ibid. Number XVII. page 451.

perſon

perſon whatſoever; nor can I find one ſingle period in either of the ſaid bills tending thereto, nor is the name of Mr. *Verelſt* mentioned ſingly, but joined with thoſe of ſeveral other gentlemen; nor is he or they charged with any one thing in either of the ſaid bills. Mr. *Bolts* ſeeks relief, in and by his ſaid bills, for certain grievances therein complained of; and, in order to diſcover the authors of ſaid grievances, has interrogated the defendants to ſuch points as, by being truly and on oath anſwered, might lead to the diſcovery required, in which, as Mr. *Bolts* told me, he had hopes of ſucceſs. As to my own hopes, I declare they were no other than what I believe is natural to every attorney, namely, to be paid for my labour, and gain my cauſe if I could. Mr. *Bolts*, his hopes, were ſoon quaſhed, by his being ſeized by an armed force, and put on board a ſhip, in order to be tranſported beyond ſea, whereby he was certainly rendered incapable of proſecuting ſaid ſuits with effect, whatever might have been his intention and hopes at the commencement of them. But thus far I can ſay for his intentions, that he told me, he intended to carry on his ſuits with the utmoſt vigour, and as far as the laws of his country would admit; and entertained the moſt ſanguine hopes of ſucceſs, from the many proofs, he ſaid, he had in his power to exhibit, in ſupport thereof. So that Mr. *Verelſt*, his pretended penetration of what were the intentions and hopes of Mr. *Bolts*, muſt appear a flight beyond humanity to attain; but whatever they were, the ſudden ſeizing and tranſporting him, prevented his giving me the neceſſary informations and inſtructions needful to carry on the ſaid ſuits in his abſence, as none but himſelf could produce the proofs requiſite to inſure ſucceſs; and *this is the reaſon why I had nothing to ſay when the ſaid bills were diſmiſſed*; but as they will be again exhibited in *Europe*, the event will ſhew whether they can be deemed libels or not.

I have now, gentlemen, anſwered Mr. *Verelſt*, his ſaid letter, in the beſt manner, and with all the ſincerity poſſible. It remains only to re-aſſure this honourable Court, and that gentleman, that I never intended to aſperſe Mr. *Verelſt*, his character, in and by the ſaid bills of complaint, either directly or indirectly; nor did, or do I conceive any thing contained in them, or either of them, could be ſo conſtrued: but for this I ſubmit to the opinion of this honourable Court.

I humbly beg leave to remark, that if the matter in ſaid bills and exhibits are by this honourable Court deemed libels on Mr. *Verelſt*, as in and by his ſaid letter ſet forth, and that this honourable Court hath cognizance thereof, that then, and in that caſe, the proceedings againſt me in this matter have been irregular and unprecedented, a libel being actionable; and whatever is actionable cannot, as I humbly conceive, properly come before this honourable Court any other way than by bill of complaint: and that my being an officer of this honourable Court doth not exclude me from the rights and privileges of my fellow-ſubjects in one of his Majeſty's Courts of Record, which is now the caſe, by being ordered, without any regular proceſs of this honourable Court, to anſwer Mr. *Verelſt*, his complaint, by letter only, and ſo proceed to immediate trial.

Pardon

Pardon this humble remonſtrance, and let my ready concurrence with your orders (however delivered) ſpeak how much I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obedient,

humble ſervant,

Calcutta,
the 10th Feb. 1769. (Signed) G. SPARKS.

NUM. III.

EXTRACT of a Letter to William Bolts, *from Mr.* George Sparks, *his Attorney at Law. Dated* Calcutta, *the 23d* November 1768.

I TAKE this opportunity by the *Verelſt* (the firſt ſhip ſince your departure) to inform you of the ſtate of things ſince you left us. In the firſt place, they began with diſmiſſing your two bills againſt *Baber* and *Boughton*, with coſts, and Mr. *Goodwin* moſt judiciouſly obſerved, that he thought you had ſhewn a moſt litigious diſpoſition, in filing your bills and then *going away*, and leaving them in the manner you did.

They next proceeded againſt you and me jointly, touching the purchaſe of *Meer Aſhruff*'s * bond; their intent being to blacken you if they could (in the office of Alderman) and thereby find out a crime after you had undergone the penalty; however, that ſcheme alſo failed, the Court declaring they could find no impropriety in that purchaſe.

Suits were then commenced againſt you, and every method made uſe of to diſcover the amount of your fortune, *and where it lay.* Theſe ſchemes have hitherto proved abortive; but for this matter I refer you to your attornies, who, I ſuppoſe, write you at large by this ſhip.

The preſent matter in agitation is a proſecution by Mr. *Verelſt* againſt me, for having combined and confederated with you ſacrilegiouſly to defame and vilify my neighbour's good name and reputation, as you will ſee by the incloſed copy of Mr. *Verelſt*'s letter to the Court. This affair is puſhing vigorouſly on againſt me by Mr. *Verelſt*, and his confederate and arch-counſellor old Mr. *Holme*. The Court, I am well aſſured, intend to follow implicitly the dictates of Mr. *Verelſt*; and notwithſtanding they have no juriſdiction in that matter, it is generally thought they will inflict fine and impriſonment on me. No longer ago than yeſterday, I applied to the bench for copies of thoſe papers whereon Mr. *Verelſt* founds his complaint, that I might be the better enabled to anſwer the charge; but Mr. *Goodwin*, inſtigated by Mr. *Holme*, declared it as his opinion, "That it was time enough for me to

* This was a bond due from *Meer Aſhruff* to *Bolakydaſs*, that had been purchaſed by Mr. *Sparks*, and put in ſuit in the Mayor's Court, where the amount was afterwards decreed the plaintiff. *Bolts* had no intereſt whatever in the tranſaction, which was a great diſappointment to his enemies, who wiſhed to have proved the contrary, as will be ſeen in the following Number.

know

" know what I was charged with, when I ſhould be called upon, in Court, " to anſwer it:" for you muſt know, that Mr. *Holme* is much afraid leſt his proteſt ſhould appear againſt him, or indeed that any other of the papers referred to by Mr. *Verelſt* and him, and called libels, ſhould ever be ſhewn in a court of juſtice at home, as he well knows they cannot be ſo deemed; and that by the proſecution thereon, Mr. *Verelſt* and he will be expoſed in the greateſt degree.

NUM. IV.

EXTRACT of a Letter to William Bolts, *from Mr.* George Sparks, *his Attorney at Law. Dated* Calcutta, *the* 15*th* February, 1769.

To *William Bolts*, Eſq;

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE been extremely unhappy ſince your departure, Mr. *Verelſt* having made me the butt whereon to vent his malice, for having adhered to your intereſt ſo ſteadily, more particularly in the petition and appeal to his Majeſty, which he knows I drew after your departure from hence, of which I herewith ſend you a copy, with my affidavit touching the filing of it. This I thought neceſſary, becauſe I cannot tell whether they have vouchſafed to anſwer it, the clerk of the appeals having told us he had no anſwer to give us a copy of.

Your good friends of the Council, and ſome of your right worſhipful brethren began firſt with me, about the purchaſing *Bolakydaſs*'s bond; but as there happened a pretty full bench at the diſcuſſing that point, a letter was wrote by order of the Court, that they could find no impropriety in ſaid purchaſe. However there wanted not ſome who thought, and ſtill do think, you the real purchaſer, and that I only lent you my name; and from theſe ill-grounded ſuggeſtions, they would endeavour to taint your integrity, as a judge of that bench, by inſinuating, that you bought up ſuits, at the determination of which you intended to ſit a judge in your own cauſe: and from thence they pretended to reconcile the neceſſity and reaſonableneſs of your diſgrace, in being expelled the bench; thereby ſearching for a crime after having inflicted the penalty.

After having been thus extricated from the firſt attack of your (and therefore my) enemies, I thought the beſt way to avoid their further machinations was to follow you as faſt as poſſible, and in conſequence I began to decline buſineſs, and to prepare for my reſignation in court. This was no ſooner known, than Mr. *John Holme* prepared the letter which the Governor ſent to the Court, of which you have a copy *per Verelſt*, accuſing me of having libelled him in your bills of complaint againſt *Baber* and *Boughton*. The letter was no ſooner read, than the bench were of opinion, that I

ought not, could not, nor ſhould not leave the Court till I had ſtood this attack of Mr. *Vereſt*'s.

Though this was the opinion of the bench, yet I was bold enough to entertain one of my own, ſomewhat differing from theirs, and in conſequence prepared for my intended voyage to *Europe*, and taking paſſage for myſelf and family on board the *Dutton*, Captain *Rice*. This no ſooner took wind, than a complicated ſcheme of litigious villainy was immediately formed, which I found myſelf unequal to oppoſe. Mr. *Vereſt*'s battery was to be changed, and ſeparate bills filed againſt me, for damages, to an enormous amount, for defaming and libelling the Governor; and another bill was to be brought againſt me, for damages ſuſtained by *Meer Aſhruff*, in that ſuit againſt him on account of *Bolakydaſs*'s bond: and ſuppoſing I ſhould be able to bail all theſe ſuits, yet that was not to be accepted, but I was to be attached by a writ of *ne-exeat*, and to give ſecurity not to go out of the juriſdiction of the Court.

Thus driven, alone, and unſupported, I was obliged to ſubmit, and endeavour to maintain my poſt in the beſt manner in my power, and was therefore forced to pay a forfeit to Captain *Rice* and remain here; hitherto indeed in Court, but how long I ſhall remain ſo is uncertain; for though they would not let me reſign, I was very near being kicked out on the 3d inſtant, for filing an anſwer on behalf of your attornies at the ſuit of Mr. *Ruſſell Skinner*: for they have brought things to ſuch a bearing now, that they not only make their will the law, but exact an implicit obedience and reſignation to their deſpotic ſway, without murmuring, repining, or complaining.—To ſet forth your grievances is held ſpurning at authority; and a remonſtrance is deemed a libel.——A copy of the anſwer you have herewith, and I believe another authenticated one by your attornies; on which I hope you will take advice, that we may have ſome knowledge how far we may go in ſupport of our client's cauſes. But I ſhall give you this, as well as ſome other caſes, in a detached piece.

Your repreſentatives are almoſt as much harraſſed as your attorney at law; for it has been more than once debated in Court, whether they have not an abſolute power to compel your attornies to make public your private inſtructions to them, and develope all the ſecrets of every kind confided to their care and keeping; for they are very anxious to diſcover all your country-connexions and engagements, both in trade and otherwiſe, and think they have an unlimited power to make a man betray his friend.

We have already ſtood two ſuits; the one of *Skinner*, the other *Williams*, by his attorney, *Motte*, to both which we pleaded the charter. A copy of the plea, together with an extract from the charter, you have herewith, on which it will alſo be proper to have advice.

On the 3d inſtant, I moved for copies of the bills, and annexed papers againſt *Baber* and *Boughton*, *which were refuſed me by the bench*, at the inſtigation of old Mr. *Holme*, who told them, that you wanted thoſe copies to make a blow-coal of, as he termed it. I am now under proſecution in their court, on account of ſaid papers, which are termed libels on the Governor; and yet they refuſe to grant copies of them, to be examined by

counſel

counſel learned in the law (this being a point of law) to know whether they are libels or not, which I am certain the bench here are not capable of deciding. I beg you will therefore take the opinion of counſel, whether they have a power to deny copies of papers which have been filed, and appear on record in their Court; for if they will allow and encourage proſecutions, and then ſmother and ſink the cauſes of them, within themſelves, by refuſing to grant copies, all appeals are at an end, and that ineſtimable privilege of the ſubject entirely loſt, deſtroyed, and aboliſhed; and they have, from a *Britiſh* Court of Record, reſolved themſelves into a Court of Inquiſition, the iniquitous proceedings of which are never to be divulged.

NUM. V.

COPY of the Proceedings of the Mayor's Court of Calcutta, *upon the Complaint of Governor* Verelſt *againſt the Attorney at Law Mr.* George Sparks; *with Mr.* Sparks's *Anſwer of the* 31ſt March 1769, *atteſted under the Seal of the Court, by* David Killican, *Eſq*; *Mayor, and Mr.* John Holme, *Regiſter, as the ſame was tranſmitted to the Court of* Eaſt India *Directors.*

Calcutta, Friday, the Thirty-firſt Day of *March,* in the Year of our Lord One thouſand Seven hundred and Sixty-nine.

At a Special Court held, preſent,

David Killican, Eſq; Mayor,
Cornelius Goodwin, Eſq; and
Mr. *John Levett,* Aldermen.

A LETTER from the Honourable *Harry Verelſt,* Eſq; Preſident and Governor of *Fort William,* in *Bengal,* directed to this Court, dated the 8th *November* laſt (being now read a ſecond time) therein complaining of the conduct of Mr. *George Sparks,* one of the Attornies of this Court. To which Mr. *George Sparks* delivered a letter ſigned by him, and dated this day; purporting, his anſwer to the letter of the ſaid Honourable *Harry Verelſt,* and praying to have his ſaid letter recorded on the proceedings of this Court; which ſaid letter being in the following words; that is to ſay,

To the Honourable the Mayor's Court for the Town of *Calcutta,* at *Fort William,* in *Bengal.*

GENTLEMEN,

WHEREAS a complaint hath been preferred in a letter from the Honourable *Harry Verelſt,* Eſq; Preſident and Governor of this ſettlement, bearing date the eighth day of *November* laſt paſt, to this honourable Court directed, therein charging me with having vilified and aſperſed the character and reputation of the ſaid *Harry Verelſt,* Eſq; in two bills of complaint exhibited

by me in this honourable Court for *William Bolts*, againſt Meſſrs. *Baber* and *Boughton*; and alſo in two exhibits marked A. number I. and filed at the ſame time with the ſaid two bills of complaint, and in the ſaid letter charged againſt me as infamous libels againſt the ſaid *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq;

In anſwer thereto, I beg leave to aſſure this honourable Court, that it was never my intention, in or by the ſaid bills of complaint, to aſperſe, vilify, or diſparage the good name, honour, or authority of the ſaid *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; in any manner whatſoever; and that if there appears any thing in the ſaid two bills in any wiſe tending to prejudice the character and reputation of the ſaid *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; I humbly pray this honourable Court, and that gentleman to believe, that an offence of that nature was the fartheſt from my thoughts; that every thing that may in any wiſe ſeem to reflect on the ſaid *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; in ſaid bills, or either of them, are far from being deſigned ſo by me, and are the mere effects of inadvertency, and not of malice propenſe; and therefore, with all due deference and ſubmiſſion, I humbly ſubſcribe to the judgment of this honourable Court, intreating the ſaid *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; to pardon a fault involuntarily committed, in which the intention had no part.

In regard to the exhibits marked A. number I. and filed at the ſame time with the ſaid bills, and which the malice of my enemies have falſely repreſented to the ſaid *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; as infamous and ſcandalous libels on him, drawn up and publiſhed by me, I truſt in the candour and equity of this honourable Court, and of that gentleman, that they will acquit me of that heavy charge, upon peruſing the different papers which compoſe the ſaid exhibits, where every ſubſcriber's name proclaims the author.

In anſwer to the laſt charge in ſaid letter, the having underwritten an affidavit ſworn to in Court by Mr. *Bolts*, I ſolemnly declare, I am an utter ſtranger to having ſigned the ſaid paper; which I humbly hope this honourable Court, and the ſaid *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; will be the rather induced to believe, when they ſhall pleaſe impartially to reflect, that my ſigning the ſame was neither neceſſary nor pertinent, as I was not the deponent, nor the Regiſter of the Court; therefore officiouſly to ſet my hand to a paper in which I had no concern, and whoſe contents I knew not, merely to incur the diſpleaſure of the Governor, muſt imply a weakneſs of which I hope I am not capable.

The ſaid paper, after it was given me by Mr. *Bolts* in the bar, laid upon the table amongſt other of my papers, till the Regiſter was at leiſure to adminiſter the oath; there doubtleſs, from the ſimilitude of the folding, I miſtook it for one of my papers for the file that day, and unwittingly ſigned it accordingly.

Thus, gentlemen, I have in the beſt manner I am able, accounted for my name appearing to that paper; for I am ready to declare, on oath, that I never knew I had ſigned it. Yet if either by this miſtake, or by any other particular of my conduct, I may have incurred the cenſure of this honourable Court, and the reſentment of the ſaid *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; I humbly hope both you and that gentleman will, of your great clemency, impute it to inattention rather than deſign, and that you will favourably diſtinguiſh a

ſin of ignorance from a wilful and premeditated crime; and, in conſequence, accept this my ſubmiſſion, as the only atonement in the power of an undeſigning offender. And I do hereby farther declare, that whatever indecent reflections are contained in the ſaid affidavit, on the ſaid *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; are utterly unknown to me; nor would I have been aiding or conſenting thereto, being well aſſured he cannot deſerve them.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your moſt obedient, and
moſt humble ſervant,

Calcutta,
the 31ſt March 1769.

(Signed) G. SPARKS.

The Court taking the ſaid Letters into conſideration, have thought proper to order, and doth hereby order, that the letters of the ſaid Mr. *George Sparks* ſhall be recorded accordingly: and that a copy thereof, together with a copy of the proceedings of this Court of this day, ſhall be immediately tranſmitted to the ſaid Honourable *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq.

TO ALL WHO ſhall ſee theſe preſents, or hear them read. I, *David Killican*, Eſquire, Mayor of *Calcutta*, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal*, do hereby make known, and certify, That *John Holme*, who hath ſigned and atteſted the certificate hereunto annexed, is the Regiſter of the Mayor's Court of *Calcutta*, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal*, legally and by lawful authority admitted and ſworn, dwelling in this town of *Calcutta* aforeſaid; and, that to acts, inſtruments, and other writings by him ſigned and atteſted, full faith and credit is given, in Court, or without.

Seal of the Mayor's Court.

In faith and teſtimony whereof, I, the ſaid Mayor, have cauſed the ſeal of the office of Mayoralty of *Calcutta* aforeſaid, to be hereunto put and affixed, and the copy of the proceedings mentioned in the ſaid certificate to be alſo hereunto annexed. Dated in *Calcutta* aforeſaid, the firſt day of *April*, in the year of our Lord one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty-nine.

JOHN HOLME,
Regiſter.

(Signed) DAVID KILLICAN,
Mayor.

I, *John Holme*, Regiſter of the honourable the Mayor's Court of *Calcutta*, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal*, do hereby certify and atteſt, that the within writing is a true copy of the proceedings of the ſaid honourable the Mayor's Court, at *Calcutta* aforeſaid; held on *Friday* the thirty-firſt day of *March*, in the year of our Lord one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty-nine; carefully collated by me with the original, now in the Regiſtry of the ſaid Court.

Town-Hall, *Calcutta*, the firſt day of *April*, in the year of our Lord one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty-nine.

(Signed) JOHN HOLME, *Reg.*

NUM. VI.

EXTRACT of a Letter to William Bolts, *from Mr.* George Sparks. *Dated at* Chittigong, *the 2d* January 1771.

I HAVE been ſick, and have languiſhed out a miſerable exiſtence for many months at this place; whither I have retired on account of a ſalutary air and cheap living. I have loſt upwards of thirty thouſand rupees ſince my reſignation, by iniquitous judgments. Examples would ſwell this to too great a bulk; ſuffice it to ſay here, that ſuch unjuſt, flagrant, deteſtable, and barefaced acts of tyranny and abuſe of power, were never before exhibited in any other place bearing the title of a *Britiſh* Court of Judicature: and they have effectually ruined me for my attachment to you.

I now proceed to anſwer your letter.——If I have not joined you long ago, it has not been my fault.——I took my paſſage on board the *Dutton*; but being threatened with an action of damage for an immenſe ſum, and a warrant of *ne exeat Regno*, at the ſuit of Mr. *Verelſt*, I was obliged to remain; and on that account paid forfeit to Captain *Rice* of five hundred rupees, for diſappointing him, as he himſelf will tell you, if you aſk him.

You next reproach me with want of that firmneſs of ſpirit which you imagined I poſſeſſed; but you do not reflect on my ſituation, and the villainous ſecret plots, and open acts of violence, injuſtice, and oppreſſion, ready to be enforced againſt me, by men who would, without ſcruple, have ſubverted the laws, as much to puniſh me for my known, undiſguiſed attachment to you, as to prevent a junction which they well knew could not be favourable either to Mr. *Verelſt* or themſelves.

In regard to my anſwer to Mr. *Verelſt*, filed the 31ſt *March* 1769; when you conſider how I was circumſtanced, and the lures thrown out to work me to their will, I acted as moſt would have done in a ſimilar caſe.—I had the whole Council, the whole Bench, and almoſt the whole town againſt me; that is, *all ſuch as had any hopes in, or dependance on the great, which is no ſmall majority.* There were not wanting ſome indeed, who praiſed your ſpirit, and ſincerely wiſhed you ſucceſs; but theſe were few, without intereſt and without fortune; nor would an open avowal of their tenets in any wiſe tend to the bettering their condition. In ſhort, *you were revered in ſilence by a few, and all your meaſures decried by the multitude of flatterers, fidlers, pimps, buffoons, and panders, in full cry:* who uſed in all companies boldly to aſſert, whatever they thought would beſt ſerve to magnify the almighty power of their patrons; ridicule your every action, in order to obtain ſatisfaction; and if any one was ſo unwiſe as to take up the cudgels, on the oppoſite ſide of the queſtion, he was *marked* and *reported* by the *paraſites* and *toad-eaters* to their principals, who let ſlip no opportunity to puniſh the culprit.

Affairs being thus ſituated, few approved, leſs cared to ſhew their approbation of my inflexibility in your cauſe, and not a man would be ſeen to countenance

countenance or ſupport me in it. Thus then, condemned for my obſtinate perſeverance by moſt, and deſerted by all, I thought it prudent to liſten to ſome overtures made me on the part of Mr. *Verelſt*, by Mr. *Killican*; who told me, that Mr. *Verelſt* had no deſign to injure, or prejudice me; but that in regard to his high rank and ſtation, his honour required a conceſſionary anſwer on my part, by which I ſhould find myſelf no loſer; for that Mr. *Verelſt* himſelf entertained a high opinion of my capacity and integrity, and *commended my ſteady attachment, though manifeſted againſt himſelf. That he would buy my garden-houſe at thirty thouſand rupees, on the Company's account, for a parſonage-houſe, and would on all occaſions befriend me; that he*, Killican, *would gladly embrace every opportunity to convince me of his eſteem; that he plainly foreſaw the Regiſtry would be ſoon vacant, if not by the death, at leaſt by the diſmiſſion of old Mr.* Holme, *and that he knew no other whoſe merit, capacity*, &c. *could give him the leaſt pretenſion to a competition with my worſhip, for that lucrative poſt; that I might be aſſured of him, and indeed of moſt of the other members, whom (he told me, in a whiſper, though no body was near us) he had already ſounded on the ſubject; and that they all concurred in his good opinion of me.*

The bait was too alluring, and I ſwallowed it. But no ſooner were they gratified, than the Company had more houſes than they wanted, and the Regiſtry was given to * Mr. *May*. This I did not write you, becauſe I could not conſent to publiſh my own folly in placing confidence in a ſet of men whom I knew before.

Public ſpirit is utterly unknown among us. We are all ſlaves; and far the greater part ſervilely hug the chains which gall them.———Fawning, cringing, abject, ſycophant ſlaves——*Dogs that will lick the foot that ſpurns them.* Trade and navigation is no more; and the inland-commerce is carried on in the old way, only more tyrannically and oppreſſively. We are all bankrupts. He is reckoned a monied man, and an excellent paymaſter, who can diſcharge a bill of 1000 rupees in a month after it is due. *The gaol is conſiderably enlarged, and yet inſufficient to hold the debtors who are daily thruſt into it.* If we were bad when you were here, we are now miſerable; yet the inhuman cauſers of our diſtreſs can, unmoved, behold the dire effects of their iniquity, and ſteadily purſue the ſame deſtructive meaſures.

NUM. VII.

EXTRACT of a Letter from Mr. George Sparks *to* William Bolts. *Dated in the Woods of* Sundree Bund, *the* 20*th* February 1773.

I AM ſorry to find you think I neglected any thing in your affairs, after having given ſuch fatal proofs of my attachment. As to my giving way to the flattering inſinuations of Mr. *Killican*, it concerned myſelf only, and I

* This gentleman is now in *England*.

was

was the dupe of my own credulity: but it is an indelible evidence of my adherence to your cauſe, as appears upon the very face of the proſecution.—— You being at home, under the protection of the laws, talk much at your eaſe; while I lay at the mercy of men, to whom warrants of commitment, or of *ne exeat Regno*, coſt nothing. Yet however unkindly you may cenſure my conduct, I am conſcious of the ſteady and unabated perſeverance wherewith I have ſerved you to the utmoſt of my poor abilities, and the utter ruin of both my health and fortune. The day I reſigned my employment, I thought myſelf worth ten thouſand pounds, I am now not worth as many cowries.——Infirm of body, and declining towards the eve of life, I write this on board an old ſloop in the *Sundree Bunds*, in which I am driving about to get a little rice and curry for myſelf and family, after upwards of thirty years ſojourning in *India*; when I might reaſonably have hoped to cloſe a buſy buſtling life in tranquillity and repoſe. It is hard——but it is no ſmall aggravation of my ills, to find myſelf condemned by you, for whoſe ſervice alone, my well known zeal has reduced me to theſe melancholy circumſtances *.

* Mr. *Sparks* then proceeds to give a detail of the means by which his ruin was effectuated. We have ventured to give ſo far, becauſe he has nothing now to fear from the Mayor's Court; but we have omitted the particulars of his detail, becauſe they are proper objects for the *new Court of Juſtice*, in which he cannot fail of obtaining ample ſatisfaction for many of the injuries he has ſuffered.

LETTER

LETTER H.

CONTAINING Copies of Letters which paſſed between *William Bolts* and his Creditors, on the One Part, and the Court of *Eaſt India* Directors, and their Secretary, *Peter Michell*, Eſq; on the other Part; from *May* 1769, to *May* 1773.

NUM. I.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to the Court of* Eaſt India *Directors. Dated London, the* 26*th* May 1769.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors for the Affairs of the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies.*

GENTLEMEN,

BY appointment of the honourable Court, having, on the 24th inſtant, attended the Committees of Correſpondence and Law-ſuits, upon my petition of the 19th inſtant, ſundry paragraphs of the general letters which have been lately written to *Bengal* reſpecting me, were there read; and upon my requeſting to be furniſhed with copies thereof, I was informed, by the ſaid Committees, that they could not be authorized to grant copies of any public letters to any perſons whomſoever, except by order of the General Court. I therefore requeſt the Court will be pleaſed to order me the ſaid copies, together with copies of all ſuch paragraphs from the Governor and Council, or Select Committee, as contain any charge againſt me.

The ſaid Committees were alſo pleaſed to expreſs a readineſs to ſend out ſuch orders to the Governor and Council at *Bengal*, as might be moſt effectual for the recovery of my outſtanding mercantile concerns, and thoſe of perſons for whom I acted as attorney; of which I was deſired to give a note.

On this ſubject, and in order to ſave as much as poſſible of the wreck of my fortune, and thoſe of my conſtituents, I could wiſh that general orders may be given, to the ſaid Governor and Council, to aſſiſt my attornies, Meſſrs. *Keir*, *Reed*, *Cator*, and *Gibſon*, in all ſuch applications as they may find neceſſary to make relative to my outſtanding concerns.

Particularly, that they will iſſue orders to the different Zemindars and Fowzdars of *Dinagepore*, *Purnea*, *Jeſſor*, *Roymungul*, *Culneak*, *Ingellee*, and

Hoogly, and to the Fowzdar of *Silhett*, to enforce the collection of my outſtanding debts due from them, or from the inhabitants of their reſpective diſtricts.

That the Chief and Council at *Dacca* be ordered to aſſiſt, in like manner, in the recovery of contracts due from the *Dallals* and *Pykars*, and other aſſamies of thoſe diſtricts. The ſame to thoſe of *Patna*, and to the Reſidents of *Burdwan* and *Midnipore*.

Alſo to the *Rajah Bulwantſing*, and the Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah*, for the recovery of debts, and for the receipt of 27,000 rupees worth of ſaltpetre, upon my attorney's paying the amount due, agreeably to the terms of nine perwânahs, granted me by his Excellency the ſaid Nabob *Sujah al Dowlah*.

And as in many places where money cannot be had, from the bad effects of the debaſement of the coinage, the debtors may be deſirous of giving goods, I am to requeſt that the Governor and Council may be ordered to furniſh my attornies with duſtucks to bring the goods down to *Calcutta*. This only for ſuch a limited time as to this Court may appear reaſonable, and under the cuſtomary reſtraints, that no applications ſhall be made but for my outſtanding concerns only.

I muſt here obſerve, that as many of my ſaid concerns interfere with the private intereſts of thoſe who are to give the orders, who have heretofore racked their invention for methods to oppreſs me, every evaſion of the expreſs orders of this honourable Court may be reaſonably expected: therefore I truſt their commands will be ſo expreſſed, that no ſubterfuge can take place.

I am, with the greateſt reſpect,
GENTLEMEN,
Your moſt obedient ſervant,
(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

NUM. II.

COPY of a Letter from Peter Michell, *Eſq; Secretary to the* Eaſt India *Company, to* William Bolts. *Dated the* 30*th* May 1769.

To Mr. *William Bolts*.

SIR, *Eaſt India Houſe, 30th May* 1769.

I HAVE received the commands of the Court of Directors of the *Eaſt India* Company to acquaint you, that they have agreed to refer your requeſt, dated the 26th inſtant, this day laid before them, to the conſideration of the Committee of Correſpondence, ſo far as relates to the orders which you deſire may be ſent to *Bengal* for recovery of yours and your conſtituents outſtanding mercantile concerns; but that *no copies of any letters mentioned in your ſaid requeſt be granted*, it being againſt the practice of the Court.

I am, SIR,
Your moſt obedient ſervant,
(Signed) P. MICHELL, Sec.

NUM.

NUM. III.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to the* East India *Directors. Dated the 6th* December 1769.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors for the Affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *East Indies*.

GENTLEMEN, *Harpur-ſtreet, the 6th Dec.* 1769.

I HAVE received a letter from *Bolakydaſs Seat*, a principal banker at *Bengal*, accompanying a power of attorney and a petition, which he there preſented to your Preſident, Mr. *Verelſt*, and the reſt of your Council, relative to a demand which he has upon the Company. The nature of the demand you will ſee by the petition, which I herewith incloſe, as received from *Bengal*. In his letter to me he ſets forth, that he has never been able to obtain any ſatisfaction whatever from your ſaid Preſident and Council; and that though he had ſent Mr. *Miguel Van Colſter* over upon this buſineſs, not having received any adequate ſatisfaction, he deſires that I would interfere, in obtaining payment of his demand. I flatter myſelf, that, upon conſideration of the particulars of the ſaid banker's caſe, the honourable Court will be ſenſible of the hardſhip thereof, and of the juſtice of his demand: at the ſame time, I am ſenſible how inconvenient it would be to the affairs of the Company to pay ſo large a ſum here, after the demand were adjuſted. Yet, in conſequence of the confidence repoſed in me by *Bolakydaſs*, and as an act of juſtice due from one merchant to another, I am neceſſitated to requeſt you will pleaſe to ſend poſitive orders to your Preſident and Council at *Bengal*, by the ſhip now under diſpatch, to ſettle and pay off *Bolakydaſs*'s demand there; and that you will pleaſe to order me a copy of ſuch paragraphs as you may be pleaſed to write on that ſubject. Otherwiſe, that you will be pleaſed to acquaint me with ſuch other determination as to you may ſeem meet.

I am, with reſpect,

GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

NUM. IV.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to* Peter Michell, *Esq; Dated the* 22*d* December 1769.

To *Peter Michell*, Esq.

SIR, *Harpur-ſtreet, the* 22*d Dec.* 1769.

I BEG you will remind the Court of my letter relative to *Bolakydaſs*'s demand; and having obtained their permiſſion, tranſmit me their reſolution, and copies of the paragraphs written on this ſubject to *Bengal*.

I am, SIR,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

NUM. V.

COPY of a Letter from Peter Michell, *Esq; to* William Bolts. *Dated the* 30*th* December 1769.

To *William Bolts*, Esq;

SIR, *Eaſt India Houſe, Saturday, the* 30*th Dec.* 1769.

IN return to your letter of the 22d inſtant, requeſting copies of paragraphs ſent to *Bengal*, relating to *Bolakydaſs*'s demand, I am ordered, by the Committee of Correſpondence, to acquaint you, that it will be neceſſary you ſhould produce the letter of attorney, empowering you to act on his behalf, before they can give an anſwer to your requeſt.

I am, SIR,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

(Signed) P. MICHELL, Sec.

NUM. VI.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to* Peter Michell, *Esq; Dated the* 31*ſt* December 1769.

To *Peter Michell*, Esq;

SIR, *Harpur-ſtreet, the* 31*ſt Dec.* 1769.

I HAVE before me your letter of the 30th inſtant, and herewith ſend you the letter of attorney received from *Bolakydaſs* empowering me to act on his behalf.

For

For the preſent purpoſe he has drawn it in the *Bengal* manner and in the *Bengal* language; and I am therefore afraid the Directors will be at a loſs to find a perſon who can read it, unleſs they will truſt to my interpretation.

This however, I hope, will not prevent the Directors from ſhewing a diſpoſition to do an act of juſtice, as due from Merchant to Merchant. In this light only I wrote to the Court on the 6th *December* inſtant, which letter has laid ſo long for conſideration. I wiſh to ſerve the *Indian* Merchant without any views of intereſt or commiſſion, and at the ſame time I do not wiſh to injure the Company in the eyes of the Public, which would certainly be the caſe ſhould this affair ever appear before a Court of Judicature in *England*. On this account I hope the Directors will candidly, as Merchants, comply with my former application, ſo as to induce *Bolakydaſs* amicably to adjuſt the affair in *Bengal*.

I am, SIR,
Your moſt obedient ſervant,
(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

NUM. VII.

COPY of a Letter from Peter Michell, *Eſq; to* William Bolts. *Dated the 2d January* 1770; *with Extracts of the Company's General Letters to* Bengal, *relative to a Demand of* Bolakydaſs.

To *William Bolts*, Eſq;

SIR, *Eaſt India Houſe, 2d Jan.* 1770.

THE Committee of Correſpondence having conſidered your letter of the 6th *December* laſt, requeſting that orders may be given for ſettling and paying off the demand of *Bolakydaſs* on the Company, for a large ſum he had advanced for their ſervice in *Bengal*, and that you may be furniſhed with a copy of thoſe orders; I am directed, in return, to acquaint you, that ſuch orders have been already given to the Preſident and Council there, and alſo to tranſmit the incloſed copies thereof for your information.

I am, SIR,
Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,
(Signed) PETER MICHELL, Sec.

Copy of the 84th Paragraph of the General Letter to *Bengal*. Dated the 21ſt *November* 1766.

On your Conſultation 12th *Auguſt* 1765 appears a demand of *Bolakydaſs*, for payment of 230,000 rupees, lent the Company ſhortly after the breaking out of the war with *Meer Coſſim*, and which ſum, you repreſent, had been paſſed

paſſed to the credit of *Meer Jaffier*, on appearance of it's having been the property of *Meer Coſſim*; and agree, that the Preſident ſhall apply to the Naib Subahdar, to obtain him recovery thereof. But as we cannot trace any farther ſteps in this affair, you are to inform us of the iſſue; or if no ſuch application was made, you muſt aſſign your reaſons for it, as it does not appear to us you had ſufficient grounds to believe the money to have been *Meer Coſſim*'s property.

Copy of the 119th Paragraph of the General Letter to *Bengal*. Dated the 11th *November* 1768.

Notwithſtanding we gave directions for your making a particular inquiry into the demand of *Bolakydaſs*, we have received no farther information thereon, and can trace no other ſteps taken in the affair than your reſolution to make ſuch an inquiry. Such extraordinary remiſſneſs in an affair of this conſequence cannot fail to be very diſpleaſing to us; more eſpecially as it prevents our giving a ſatisfactory anſwer to his Attorney, Mr. *Miguel Van Colſter*, who is come to *England* to ſolicit the payment of the money. We therefore poſitively repeat our orders for making the moſt circumſtantial examination into this affair, and reporting the reſult thereof to us by the earlieſt opportunity. Copy of Mr. *Van Colſter*'s memorial to us goes in this ſhip's packet, together with his draft on *Bolakydaſs* for 100*l.* which we have advanced Mr. *Van Colſter* for his ſubſiſtence in *England*.

Copy of the 77th Paragraph of the General Letter to *Bengal*. Dated the 17th *March* 1769.

Since we wrote you on the 11th *November* laſt, Paragraph 119, regarding the demand of *Bolakydaſs*, having received another memorial from his agent, Mr. *Van Colſter*, thereon, we ſend incloſed a copy thereof, and farther direct, that you immediately ſet about a very particular examination, whether the money lent the Company by *Bolakydaſs*, as mentioned in our letter of the 20th *November* 1766, Paragraph 84, was actually his property or not: for this purpoſe you muſt apply to all ſuch perſons as you think can give any inſight into this matter, and in particular to the Officers of the Government at *Dacca*, and to *Mahommed Reza Khawn*, who, we ſuppoſe, held a principal poſt in that Government at the period when the loan was made. Upon the whole, you are to do ſtrict juſtice betwixt him and the Company in this affair; and enter your proceedings thereon on your records, for our information. We have lent Mr. *Van Colſter* the farther ſum of 500*l.* to defray the expences he has incurred in *England*, and charges of his paſſage to *India*; for which he has given bills on *Bolakydaſs*, which are incloſed in the packet herewith.

NUM. VIII.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to the* East India *Directors. Dated the* 11*th* January 1770.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *East Indies*.

GENTLEMEN, *Harpur-ſtreet, the* 11*th January* 1770.

WHEN the memorial which I had the honour of addreſſing to you, under date of the 12th *October* * 1767, was delivered to your Governor and Council in *Bengal*; at the ſame time, in a letter to your ſaid Council, of the 18th *October* 1767, I offered to prove the contents of that memorial before themſelves. Though this was a difficult attempt, againſt men exerciſing ſuch arbitrary authority, they declined the challenge; and, as I was afterwards informed, inſtead of even anſwering it to you, Gentlemen, they contented themſelves with a *general anſwer to ſpecific charges*; telling you, that it was a compoſition fraught with falſehood; and that, as the malice and abſurdity of the memorial were ſo very apparent, they had ſent it unanſwered, a number in your packet.

On the 5th *September* 1768 I had the honour of writing to you another † addreſs, partly in corroboration of my former one, and partly on new matter; both of them being upon ſubjects of the greateſt conſequence to the Company. Upon delivery of this laſt addreſs to your Governor and Council, I alſo offered, in a letter of the 12th *September* 1768, to prove every aſſertion contained in my ſaid addreſs, before their own faces. They however thought it much more prudent to ſend me out of the country; and in my abſence, as I have been informed from good authority, they have again not only denied the veracity of my ſaid addreſs, as ‡ "*infamouſly ſcandalous and falſe*," but, in their letters by the *Valentine*, faithfully promiſed that they would particularly anſwer my ſaid addreſs by the next ſhip. As the *Shrewſbury*, the laſt ſhip of the ſeaſon, diſpatched from *Bengal* ſeven months after that promiſe was made, has been ſome time arrived, I do not doubt but the Governor and Council have attempted to ſend a full anſwer, in refutation of my ſaid memorials. I therefore humbly requeſt, Gentlemen, that you will be pleaſed to order me a copy of their ſaid anſwer, that I may have an opportunity of vindicating my veracity, and of pointing out where the impoſition muſt lay.

I have herewith lodged with your Secretary, for your inſpection and ſatisfaction, the originals of the two ‖ affidavits under the ſeal of the Mayor's Court, as annexed to my beforeſaid addreſs of the 5th *September* 1768, relative to the manner of my executing the covenants, which the Governor and

* See F, Num. XVII. Page 450.
† Ibid. Num. XXXII. Page 505.
‡ See F, Num. XXXVII. Par. CII. Page 527.
‖ Ibid. Page 519.

Council

Council make the foundation of ſo heavy a complaint againſt me. When in *Bengal*, I offered to give any indemnification upon that head which might be thought neceſſary, in order to prevent the ſlighteſt cavil, notwithſtanding I was conſcious, that the covenants, as they ſtood, were legally binding upon me: but having no anſwer from your Governor and Council, I think it incumbent upon me, not only to make the ſame offer to you, Gentlemen, here, but to requeſt you will receive ſuch indemnification; which I am ready to give, if you have the leaſt ſuſpicion that I have ever injured the Company, or that my covenants are not ſtrictly legal as they ſtand. I make this offer, Gentlemen, free and uninfluenced: not as an acknowledgment that I have acted wrong, but to ſhew the conſciouſneſs which I poſſeſs of never having attempted to impoſe upon you while in your ſervice; and I particularly make this offer now, to ſhew that I am not afraid of the ſtrict ſcrutinies which Mr. *Verelſt* has threatened to make upon his journey up the country.

I am, with reſpect,

GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

NUM. IX.

COPY of a Letter from Peter Michell, *Eſq; to* William Bolts. *Dated the 3d of* February 1770.

To *William Bolts*, Eſq;

SIR, *Eaſt India Houſe, 3d February* 1770.

IN anſwer to your letter to the Court of Directors, dated the 11th *January*, I am ordered to acquaint you, that whenever it ſhall be found convenient by them to take up the ſubject matters of your ſeveral memorials to their Governor and Council in *Bengal*, and of thoſe from you to the Court of Directors, referred to by your ſaid letter, you may depend upon being furniſhed with every complaint or accuſation made againſt you, which may be neceſſary for the vindication of your veracity, and of pointing out where the impoſition lies; which appear, by your laſt addreſs to the Court of Directors, to be your principal objects in view.

With reſpect to the affidavits left in my hands, tending to elucidate the manner of your executing the deed of covenants, which you ſay the Governor and Council have made a foundation of a moſt heavy complaint againſt you, I am ordered to obſerve to you, that as your appeal againſt the ſentence of the Preſidency, on hearing that charge againſt you, is now depending before his Majeſty in Council, the Court of Directors think it highly improper to take any ſteps in that matter, till the merits of the appeal are determined; becauſe, from the judgment which will be pronounced in that appeal, the

Court of Directors can alone judge what is proper to be done by them upon the ſubject of your preſent requeſt, or in any matter relative to that diſpute.

I have only to add, that the Court of Directors are not at all ſatisfied with the manner in which you are pleaſed, in your memorials and letters both to themſelves and their Governor and Council of *Bengal*, to treat that Preſidency.

I am, SIR,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

(Signed) PETER MICHELL, Sec.

NUM. X.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to the Court of* Eaſt India *Directors. Dated the 6th* February 1770.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies*.

GENTLEMEN, *Harpur-ſtreet, the 6th February* 1770.

I HAVE received your Secretary's letter of the 3d inſtant, in anſwer to mine of the 11th *January*, by which it appears, the meaning of my ſaid letter has been totally miſunderſtood. I did not mean to requeſt copies "of the complaints or accuſations made againſt me by the Governor and Council;" becauſe, by your letter of the 30th *May* 1769, you, Gentlemen, had already been pleaſed to refuſe granting me ſuch copies, which I therefore deſpaired of obtaining. But I wiſhed to be favoured with copies only of the anſwers (if the Governor and Council had ſent any) to my memorials of the 12th *October* 1767, and 5th *September* 1768, which are of a public concern. The object in my view is, not only the vindication of my veracity, but my duty, as a Proprietor, to contribute, as much as is in my power, to reſcue the affairs of the Company from the ruinous conſequences which have been experienced, from the bad management and bad regulations exiſting in *Bengal*, as mentioned in my ſaid memorials. It is in purſuit of this object that I wiſh to be informed on two points, which I cannot diſcover from your Secretary's letter now before me. Firſt, to be informed, from authority, whether the Governor and Council, *as they promiſed*, have ſent anſwers to my ſaid memorials, which I much * doubt; and, ſecondly, in caſe ſuch anſwers have come, to be informed whether the Court will be pleaſed to order me copies of the ſame, as far as relates to the public points only of my ſaid memorials, one of which has now laid near two years before your Court.

* *Bolts* could get no anſwer from the Directors upon this point, until the 6th *November* 1771. See H, Num. XXIX.

Since my application to you, Gentlemen, of the 26th *May* 1769, in conſequence of which you were pleaſed to order your Governor and Council to aſſiſt my Attornies in collecting my outſtanding concerns in *Bengal*, I have received advices of very great difficulties and obſtructions in my buſineſs, in conſequence of the manner of my being ſent away. Among other hardſhips which I labour under, ſome have ſent over demands againſt me which originated, and in the common courſe of things would have been liquidated, in *Bengal*. Others are very preſſing in demands upon me payable in *England*, and running at intereſt: for the diſcharge of which I was diſabled from providing in time, by the ſudden outrage committed upon me at a time when I was labouring to compleat the remittances of my own and other people's effects. I was in hopes that matters would have been amicably ſettled betwixt us: but as this is not likely to be brought about ſo ſoon as to enable me to anſwer the ſeveral demands now upon me, and as you, Gentlemen, and your ſervants in *India*, I am adviſed, are become the natural guardians and truſtees of the property which I have been neceſſarily obliged to leave within your Government in *India*, by being torn from it by force, the proſpect of a priſon, and of ruinous and expenſive proſecutions at law, lay me under the neceſſity of deſiring you to aſſiſt me with as much money as will ſatisfy the preſent demands upon me; which advances ſhall be punctually repaid here, upon receipt of my remittances, or may be retained by you, Gentlemen, out of ſuch part of my property in *India* as ſhall come to the hands of your ſervants there. I beg to be favoured with your anſwer upon this laſt requeſt, in time to ſatisfy my creditors, at a meeting to be held, for that purpoſe, on *Wedneſday* the 14th inſtant.

I am, GENTLEMEN,
Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,
(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

NUM. XI.

***COPY** of a Letter from* Peter Michell, *Eſq; to* William Bolts. *Dated the 7th* February 1770.

To *William Bolts*, Eſq;

SIR, *Eaſt India Houſe, the 7th February* 1770.

HAVING this day laid before the Court of Directors of the *Eaſt India* Company your letter, dated the 6th inſtant, I have received their commands to acquaint you, in anſwer to that part thereof deſiring to be aſſiſted, for the reaſons therein mentioned, with as much money as will ſatisfy the demands upon you here; that they do not think themſelves authorized to advance you any ſum of money. I am, SIR,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,
(Signed) P. MICHELL, Sec.

NUM. XII.

COPY of a Letter from the Creditors of William Bolts *to the Court of* East India *Directors. Dated the* 14*th* February 1770.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *East Indies*.

GENTLEMEN, *London, the* 14*th February* 1770.

WE, the Creditors of Mr. *William Bolts*, late of *Calcutta* in *Bengal*, who was ſuddenly ſeized and ſent from thence to *England* by the authority of the Governor and Council, upon looking into the ſtate of the affairs of the ſaid Mr. *Bolts*, find it neceſſary, for the ſecurity of our property, or that of our conſtituents, which amounts to a very large ſum, to requeſt you will be pleaſed to ſend directions to the Commiſſioners over all *India*, as well as to the Preſidents and Councils of your ſeveral ſettlements, to give every neceſſary and proper aſſiſtance to the Attornies or Agents of Mr. *Bolts*, for the ſecuring, collecting, and remitting to *England* of his outſtanding concerns.

We are, with reſpect,

GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obedient ſervants,

(Signed) THOMAS HAY,
RALPH LEYCESTER,
W. PULTENEY, Truſtee,
ROBERT FLETCHER,
JOHN DAVIDSON,
ANSELM BEAUMONT,
GILES STIBBERT,
PHILIP MILNER DACRES,
BENJAMIN WILDING,
JAMES HENCKELL,
GEORGE JOHNSTONE, Truſtee,
SAMUEL HANNAY, Truſtee,
BEESTON LONG, by procuration of *Margaret Plowman*, Adminiſtratrix of *Henry Plowman*,
PAGE KEBLE, Truſtee.

NUM. XIII.

COPY of a Letter from Peter Michell, *Eſq*; *to* William Bolts. *Dated the* 28*th* June 1770.

To *William Bolts*, Eſq;

SIR, *Eaſt India Houſe, the* 28*th June* 1770.

THE Court of Directors of the *Eaſt India* Company having received his Majeſty's royal approbation of the report of the Lords of his Privy Council, and their ſentence therein mentioned, whereby the judgment given by the Preſidency of *Fort William*, in *Bengal*, for removing you from the

office of one of the Aldermen of the Mayor's Court of *Calcutta* is reverſed, and you are reſtored to the ſaid office, purſuant to your petition of appeal to his Majeſty: I have received their orders to inform you, that they have acquainted their Governor and Council at *Fort William* with the ſaid ſentence of reverſal, and they expect that you repair to *Calcutta* in one of their ſhips of the enſuing ſeaſon, in order to reſume the functions of your ſaid office.

I am, SIR,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

(Signed) PETER MICHELL, Sec.

NUM. XIV.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to the Court of* Eaſt India *Directors. Dated the 5th* July 1770.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies.*

GENTLEMEN, *Harpur-ſtreet, the 5th July* 1770.

I HAVE received a letter from your Secretary, Mr. *Michell*, informing me, by your order, that in conſequence of his Majeſty's reverſal of the ſentence pronounced againſt me by your Governor and Council at *Bengal*, you expect I ſhall repair to *Calcutta* next ſeaſon, in order to reſume the functions of my office in the Mayor's Court.

It gives me great pleaſure to find thereby, that you are pleaſed to intereſt yourſelves ſo warmly in my return to that Preſidency in ſo honourable a ſtation, notwithſtanding all the repreſentations of the ſaid Governor and Council againſt me: and I ſhall not reſt till, in the proſecution of exemplary juſtice, I have farther proved to your ſatisfaction, that every repreſentation to my prejudice, from that quarter, (with which I am fully acquainted) is not only founded on falſehood, but that the motives of the ſaid Governor and Council for their conduct towards me, as well as the motives of ſome perſons on this ſide, who have warmly ſupported that conduct, are founded on the moſt diſhonourable and ſelf-intereſted principles, and ſuch as you, Gentlemen, at preſent little ſuſpect.

The unparalleled difficulties into which I and many with me are involved, by the oppreſſive conduct of your ſaid Governor and Council, will unavoidably delay me longer than I could otherwiſe wiſh: but depend upon it, Gentlemen, I ſhall not voluntarily abſent myſelf one moment from my ſtation in the Mayor's Court of *Calcutta*, but ſhall do my utmoſt endeavours to proceed there in the courſe of the enſuing ſeaſon. Yet, leſt it ſhould not be in my power to proceed to *Calcutta* ſo ſoon, I muſt requeſt that, in conſideration of my preſent grievous ſituation, you, Gentlemen, will be pleaſed to acquieſce in my

remaining

remaining in *England* two years from the date of his Majeſty's ſentence of reverſal, upon which point I beg the favour of an anſwer as ſoon as may be convenient.

I am, with the greateſt reſpect,

GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

NUM. XV.

COPY of a Letter from Peter Michell, *Eſq; to* William Bolts. *Dated the 13th* July 1770.

To *William Bolts*, Eſq;

SIR, *Eaſt India Houſe, the 13th July* 1770.

THE Court of Directors of the *Eaſt India* Company have received your letter of the 5th *July* 1770, requeſting that they would acquieſce in your remaining in *England* two years from the date of his Majeſty's ſentence of reverſal, if you ſhould find it neceſſary ſo to do; the ſaid Court have commanded me, in anſwer, to acquaint you, that by the Charter of Juſtice, if any of the Aldermen ſhall be abſent from the town of *Calcutta* by the ſpace of twelve calendar months, the office of ſuch Alderman ſhall be void. They therefore underſtand it is not in their power to acquieſce in your remaining in *England* two years from the date of his Majeſty's ſentence of reverſal, and expect that you repair to *Calcutta* in one of their ſhips of the enſuing ſeaſon, in order to reſume the functions of your office within the time preſcribed by the ſaid Charter.

I am, SIR,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

(Signed) P. MICHELL, Sec.

NUM. XVI.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to the Court of* Eaſt India *Directors. Dated the 9th* Auguſt 1770.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies*.

GENTLEMEN, *Harpur-ſtreet, the 9th Auguſt* 1770.

IN conſequence of the general orders which you were pleaſed to ſend out by the *Lapwing* to your Preſident and Council at *Bengal*, directing them to give effectual aſſiſtance to my Agents, for facilitating the recovery of ſuch of my outſtanding

ſtanding concerns, and thoſe of my conſtituents, as I was neceſſitated ſuddenly to abandon in different parts of the country, my ſaid Agents have there made ſeveral applications to your ſaid Governor and Council for ſuch aſſiſtance as they found requiſite, in order to ſave as much as poſſible of the wreck of my fortune.

In my letter to you, Gentlemen, of the 26th *May* 1769, I informed you, "that many of my concerns interfered with the private intereſt of your ſaid "Council, who were to execute thoſe orders; and that from that circum-"ſtance, as well as from the enmity of your ſaid Council towards me, every "poſſible evaſion might be reaſonably expected, unleſs your commands were "ſo expreſſed that no ſubterfuge could take place."

According to the advices I have lately received from *Bengal*, it appears my ſuſpicions were but too well founded: and that your Governor and Council, after firſt formally promiſing their aſſiſtance, and receiving the accounts of my demands, upon oath, from my Agents, have, upon the moſt frivolous pretexts, withdrawn that promiſe, and refuſed their aſſiſtance; whereby immenſe ſums have become irrecoverable, to the great loſs, not only of my own fortune, but to the detriment of many other perſons, whoſe fortunes depend upon the recovery of mine.

That you may yourſelves judge of the ſtate of this matter, I take the liberty of incloſing to you copies of the correſpondence which has paſſed upon the occaſion, as contained in a proteſt, which my Agents have been neceſſitated to make. You will therein perceive, that the pretence made uſe of by your Governor and Council, for evading your orders, is, that I had no right to claim their aſſiſtance, becauſe they were pleaſed to judge, that the trade upon which the demands had ariſen was illegal. This, Gentlemen, is the pretext upon which I am actually deprived of the real poſſeſſion of about £. 16,000 ſterling, as you will ſee by the articles ſpecified in the proteſt.

I make no doubt but your Honourable Court will agree with me, that whether the trade in queſtion was legal or illegal, that could be no reaſon for invalidating my claims againſt my debtors, juſtly eſtabliſhed, as the perſons aggrieved by ſuch illegal trade would have their lawful recourſe. But in caſe, Gentlemen, you have any doubts on this head, I ſhould be glad to wait upon you whenever it may be convenient, when I will ſhew, to your ſatisfaction, with reſpect to the point of legality,

1ſt, That the trade in queſtion was ſtrictly legal, according to the eſtabliſhed laws and cuſtoms of the country.

2dly, That it was in no degree contrary to the orders of your Honourable Court.

3dly, That it was beneficial to the country, and to the Company in particular.

4thly, That it was no other than what the very men who except againſt it's legality were themſelves carrying on: and,

5thly, That I paid thereon into the Company's treaſury, in different parts of the country, to the amount of *five thouſand pounds ſterling* FOR DUTIES; two thirds of which were collected by the expreſs regulations and orders of your ſaid Preſident and Council.

Beſides

Beſides the above heavy loſs of . . . . . £. 16,000 . 0 . 0
by the other accounts from my Agents I find, that, in conſequence of my impriſonment, I have been plundered of houſehold goods and effects, in different parts of the country, to the amount of upwards of . . . . . 5,000 . 0 . 0

£. 21,000 . 0 . 0

excluſive of ſundry other very heavy loſſes; the loſſes conſequent of the impriſonment of the *Armenians*, and thoſe accruing to the old partnerſhip of *Johnſtone*, *Hay*, and *Bolts*, and others, with which you have been before acquainted. Regarding all which, for your ſatisfaction, I ſhall be always ready to produce the original books, or give any other ſatisfaction that can be reaſonably required.

Though I do not expect, after ſo long a delay, ever to recover any part of the ſums above particularly ſpecified, yet as my Counſel inform me, that the law will require of me to have done my utmoſt endeavours for that purpoſe, as well as to prevent farther loſſes, which may accrue upon other concerns, I am deſirous of diſpatching an expreſs over-land with your farther orders to the Superviſors, and to your Preſident and Council. I am therefore to requeſt of you, Gentlemen, that you will be pleaſed to give me duplicate letters containing ſuch orders to your ſaid Superviſors and Preſident and Council, as may, without a poſſibility of evaſion, effectually ſecure the recovery of my demands from thoſe perſons againſt whom they are juſtly eſtabliſhed, reſerving to yourſelves the determination of any diſputed points. I am convinced, that no part of my trade, during the whole of my reſidence in *India*, was in any degree illegal: but ſhould you, Gentlemen, be of a different opinion hereafter, from the ample information which there is no doubt you will receive from *India*, you will find me ever ready to make the moſt ſatisfactory and legal reparation.

I am, with reſpect,
GENTLEMEN,
Your moſt obedient ſervant,
(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

NUM. XVII.

COPY of a Card from Peter Michell, *Eſq; to* William Bolts. *Dated the 30th* Auguſt 1770.

MR. MICHELL preſents his compliments to Mr. *Bolts*, and acquaints him, that it will be neceſſary to ſpecify the dates of the ſeveral tranſactions relating to his trade in *Bengal*, mentioned in the papers he addreſſed to the Court of Directors the 9th inſtant.

Eaſt India Houſe, 30th Auguſt 1770.

NUM.

NUM. XVIII.

COPY of another Card from Peter Michell, *Esq; to* William Bolts. *Dated the 30th* Auguſt 1770.

MR. MICHELL preſents his compliments to Mr. *Bolts*, and acquaints him, the Gentlemen of the Committee of Correſpondence will be glad to ſee him, at this houſe, on *Thurſday next*, the 6th *September*, at twelve at noon.

Eaſt India Houſe, 30th Auguſt 1770.

NUM. XIX.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to the Court of* Eaſt India *Directors. Dated the 16th* May 1771.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies*.

GENTLEMEN, *Harpur-ſtreet, the 16th May* 1771.

IN purſuance of his Majeſty's ſentence in my favour and conformably to your requeſt ſignified to me, in your Secretary's letter of the 28th *June* laſt, I have done my utmoſt for proceeding to *India* in one of your ſhips of this ſeaſon, in order to reſume the functions of my office in the Mayor's Court of *Calcutta*. I am therefore to requeſt you will pleaſe to order a paſſage for me, and my neceſſaries, on board the *Britannia*, Captain *Swithin*, now under diſpatch for *Bombay*; from whence I ſhall proceed round to *Calcutta* in the country-ſhips, with the utmoſt expedition. I have many outſtanding debts, and many affairs unſettled on the coaſts of *Malabar* and *Coromandel*; ſo that I may, with your aſſiſtance, be able to ſecure a great part of my property on my way round in this track: for which purpoſe I requeſt you will be pleaſed to write to your Preſidencies at *Bombay* and *Fort St. George*, to give me every reaſonable aſſiſtance.

I am, GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

NUM.

NUM. XX.

COPY *of a Letter from* Peter Michell, *Esq*; *to* William Bolts. *Dated the* 24*th* May 1771.

To *William Bolts*, Esq;

SIR, *East India House, the* 24*th May* 1771.

I AM ordered by the Court of Directors to inform you, in answer to your letter of the sixteenth instant, that although your application for taking your passage on board a *Bombay* ship, in order to your return to *Bengal*, is in itself very singular and unusual, and your return to *India* has been delayed by you to the last moment, yet they think proper to acquiesce in your request, and will give the necessary directions for your reception on board the *Britannia*, Captain *Swithin*, now under dispatch for *Bombay*.

Your said letter contains the first information the Court of Directors have received from you of your having many outstanding debts, and many affairs unsettled on the coasts of *Malabar* and *Coromandel*: and it seems very extraordinary to them, that in the course of the many applications you have made, at different periods of time for some years past, to be assisted in the recovery of your dependencies in *Bengal*, you should never have thought fit to mention your concerns on those coasts: from whence they cannot help concluding, that this is either a pretence for a still longer delay in your return to *Bengal*, where the office of Alderman, which you are to resume, will have been vacant more than twelve months before you can possibly arrive there; or else, that these debts and unsettled affairs now for the first time mentioned by you, were so inconsiderable as never to have been the object of your attention. In either case the Court of Directors think it necessary to inform you, that they expect, and will send their orders accordingly, that you take your passage on the first ship that shall be dispatched for *Bengal*, after your arrival at *Bombay*.

The Court of Directors, in order likewise to prevent any mistake, or misapprehension on your part, respecting certain powers and authorities which you imagine will devolve upon you by your resuming the office of an Alderman of the Mayor's Court at *Calcutta*, have directed me farther to inform you, that, in the opinion of the ablest lawyers in this kingdom, such office carries with it no authority whatsoever to trade or traffick in *Bengal*, or any part of *India*; but, on the contrary, that any such trading or trafficking, under the colour of the said office, is not only expressly contrary to several Acts of Parliament for confirming to the *East India* Company their exclusive right to trade, but that it is a just and legal cause for removing you from the said office, and sending you to *England*, to be tried for such offence and misdemeanour, pursuant to those laws. The Court of Directors hope, that this caution and information may be taken by you in good part, and have the proper effect

upon your future conduct; which they expect, and, for your own ſake, do moſt ſincerely wiſh may prove very different from your paſt.

I am, SIR,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

(Signed) P. MICHELL, Secretary.

NUM. XXI.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to the Court of* East India *Directors. Dated the 27th* May 1771.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies*.

GENTLEMEN, *Harpur Street, the 27th May* 1771.

ON the twenty-fourth inſtant, at night, I received a letter from your Secretary, Mr. *Michell*, ſaid to be written by your orders, in anſwer to mine of the ſixteenth inſtant. This letter is of a nature which appears to require ſome explanations on my part, as well for the information of you, gentlemen, as to prevent (as far as you may think proper) your farther involving the Proprietors in affairs which, in the end, will be of the moſt ruinous conſequences to them. I ſhall therefore for a few minutes incroach upon your time in anſwering it, and I hope you, gentlemen, will alſo take my reply in good part.

With reſpect to my laſt letter's containing the firſt information you have had of my having outſtanding concerns on the coaſts of *Malabar* and *Coromandel*, if you pleaſe to refer to my Proteſts, and the many letters which ſtand upon record on your *Bengal* conſultations, you will by them find there is not a part nor a port in *India*, ſcarcely, but where I have conſiderable outſtanding concerns, and ſome of them are of many years ſtanding. It was upon a view of a ſtatement of all thoſe concerns, whereby it appeared, that I had been forced from property to the amount of upwards of 160,000 pounds ſterling, that my creditors wrote to you, gentlemen, on the 14th *February* 1770, in the following words, *viz.*

" We, the creditors of Mr. *William Bolts*, late of *Calcutta*, in *Bengal*, who " was ſuddenly ſeized and ſent from thence to *England*, by the authority of " the Governor and Council, upon looking into the ſtate of the affairs of the " ſaid Mr. *William Bolts*, find it neceſſary, for the ſecurity of our property, or " that of our conſtituents, which amounts to a very large ſum, to requeſt you " will be pleaſed to ſend directions *to the Commiſſioners over all* India, *as well* " *as to the Preſidents and Councils at your ſeveral ſettlements*, to give every " neceſſary and proper aſſiſtance to the Attornies or Agents of Mr. " *Bolts* for the ſecuring, collecting, and remitting to *England* of his out- " ſtanding concerns."

After

After a reconſideration of this matter, I hope, gentlemen, you will allow, that the neceſſary "information and application" have not been omitted on my part. How efficacious your orders have been in conſequence, you can beſt ſay, from the proceedings of your Governors and Councils: I have not yet experienced any good effects.

In repeated letters I have had the honour to inform you of the difficulties which I labour under by your acts and thoſe of your ſervants; and that I ſhould not voluntarily abſent myſelf one moment from my ſtation in the Honourable the Mayor's Court of *Calcutta*; and I again aſſure you, gentlemen, that I ſhall not expoſe myſelf to any avoidable delay, whatever you may affect to apprehend. In fact, there has been a vacancy or abſence of a legal member in that Court from the firſt moment of my illegal amotion, that is now for almoſt three years; conſequently the ſtipulation in the charter of twelve months cannot affect me, in my particular ſituation. The *Eaſt India* Company itſelf, as I am informed by the learned in the law, muſt be anſwerable for that breach of the charter.

You, gentlemen, need not be informed, that an Alderman in *Calcutta*, *who does not make a trade of his office*, can reap no other advantage from his ſtation than his ſalary, which amounts to about twenty-five pounds ſterling *per annum*; conſequently, the reſuming my ſtation could, alone, never be a ſufficient inducement for me again to brave thoſe inhoſpitable climes. Nevertheleſs, as my preſence there is become neceſſary in order to attend the buſineſs of my grand ſuits at law, I ſhall continue ſolicitous to preſerve my ſtation in the Court, as a poſt of honour which I have a legal right to, and which will, in ſome degree, reflect ſhame upon my oppreſſors.

As to the point, whether I have a right to trade or not, while I reſide in *India*, I am well acquainted with the opinions of the lawyers which you refer to. And as you will ſoon hear ſufficient upon that ſubject before a ſuperior tribunal, I hope you will not only pardon me, if I neither think proper to pin my faith upon the learned ſleeves of thoſe gentlemen, nor to abide by your deciſion upon this new ſtarted query, in which you are, in fact, parties concerned. Beſides, as I ſhall ſhortly ſhew you, gentlemen, I am totally out of the predicaments of the very partial caſes which have been laid before thoſe able Lawyers. In the mean time I do, as you are pleaſed to hope I would, take "your caution and information" in the ſame good part as I would any other good advice for my conduct in ſuch domeſtic affairs.

With reſpect to the laſt paragraph of your Secretary's letter, in which you are pleaſed to expreſs your ſincere wiſhes and concern for my future conduct, after the injuries I have experienced, I do not know in what light to take it; for I would willingly admit you, gentlemen, to be incapable of adding inſult to injury. My paſt conduct I eſteem in every reſpect irreproachable: and though I have not been as able, I can, with a ſafe conſcience, boaſt that I have been as faithful, as honeſt, and as induſtrious in the ſervice of the Company as any ſervant they ever had. I patiently and ſilently ſuffered many injuries in *India*: yet I never ſhewed any reſentment till I was treated in a manner beyond the power of humanity to bear with, witneſs the proceedings of your *Bengal* Select Committee of the 18th and 20th *April* 1767 againſt

me, unaccuſed, unconfronted, and unheard. It was natural for me, in that caſe, to vindicate my injured innocence, or I ſhould have been lower than even the moſt deſpicable of reptiles, which turn when trod upon. While I am upon this ſubject, I cannot but requeſt, *with a view to future tranſactions*, that you, gentlemen, will pleaſe to *bear in your own remembrance*, that, *my firſt applications* for juſtice, or a ſimple diſavowal of the proceedings of your ſervants, which ſtand diſregarded to this day, were addreſſed to you, in a ſupplicating and moſt reſpectful ſtile. My friends then blamed me, as having penned my memorials in a manner beneath the dignity of an injured man; but I choſe to give you an opportunity of coming off, and of ſaving the proprietors, for whom you were only the Guardians. You will likewiſe, *on the ſame account*, pleaſe to remember, that when you were upon the point of an unanimous reſolution not to vindicate your ſervants, yet, from private party motives, that reſolution was ſuddenly ſet aſide, and the cauſe of the maſters abandoned for the ſupport of the delinquent ſervants.

As this is the laſt letter I propoſe to trouble you with, I think it not improper to inform you, gentlemen, alſo, to prevent "any miſtake or miſapprehenſion" on your parts, with reſpect to my "future conduct" in *India* or in *Europe*, that I eſteem myſelf totally independent of the diſcretionary powers or orders either of you, gentlemen, or of your Preſidents and Councils. That I ſhall faithfully perform my duty, as an upright magiſtrate, ſtrictly conforming to the charter, while I continue in the Mayor's Court; but that upon the preſent footing of affairs I diſclaim every other connexion with a Company who have treated me ſo ungratefully. Farther, that armed with the united ſtrength of truth, that *ſhall* appear, and injured innocence, that *will* be revenged, I defy the utmoſt power of all my enemies combined, and in the patient hope of adequate though tardy ſatisfaction,

I am, GENTLEMEN,
Your moſt obedient ſervant,
(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

P. S. I ſhould be glad to know whether you pleaſe to allow any, and what ſum for my paſſage and expences to *Bengal?*

NUM. XXII.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts, *in Cuſtody of the Sheriff's Officers, to the Court of* Eaſt India *Directors. Dated the 6th* June 1771.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies*.

GENTLEMEN,

THE preparations which I have been making to proceed to *India*, on the *Britannia*, in order to reſume the functions of my office in the Honourable the Mayor's Court of *Calcutta*, have alarmed many of my creditors, who are

are reſolved not to let me go till their dependencies with me are adjuſted. Accordingly proceedings have been commenced againſt me in the High Court of Chancery; and I have been arreſted, upon a writ of *ne exeat regno*, and am apprehenſive of ſeveral other diſagreeable impediments. By virtue of this writ, I have been in charge of the Sheriff's officers ſince yeſterday evening, and am now in their cuſtody, diſtreſſed for bail. As I have been expoſed to theſe hardſhips in conſequence of the outrages committed againſt me in *India* by your ſervants, ſupported by your orders, I think I have a reaſonable claim upon you, gentlemen, to requeſt you will procure bail to the writ upon which I am now confined, and for ſuch other ſums as may appear againſt me. I have the more reaſon to expect this from you, as the Company are already poſſeſſed of upwards of twenty thouſand pounds ſterling of my property in *Bengal*, as I will do myſelf the pleaſure ſatisfactorily to convince you, gentlemen, whenever you pleaſe to inquire into this matter.

I am, with all due reſpect,

GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

From Mr. *Vere*'s, Sheriff's Officer, *Southampton Buildings*, *Holborn*, the 6th *June*, 1771.

NUM. XXIII.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to the Court of* Eaſt India *Directors. Dated the* 16*th* Auguſt 1771.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies*.

GENTLEMEN, *London, Auguſt the* 16*th* 1771.

WHEN perſons intereſted in the proceedings of the Mayor's Court of *Calcutta* have had occaſion to conſult the records of that Court, which are ſent home to you, it has been always cuſtomary for the clerks officially to furniſh ſuch intereſted perſons with the information they required.

Upon *my* application, it has been told me, that I muſt have permiſſion formally granted by the Court. I therefore requeſt you will pleaſe to order your clerk, who has charge of thoſe records, to furniſh me with ſuch extracts as I may apply for, relative to the following matters, *viz.*

Certain bills of complaint, which were filed by me againſt ſeveral perſons, and which were diſmiſſed after I was brought to *England* a priſoner, becauſe I was not found upon the ſpot to proſecute the ſame.

Certain

Certain Bills againſt me, filed by ſundry perſons, upon which ſequeſtration of my effects followed, becauſe I was not found upon the ſpot to defend myſelf.

I am, GENTLEMEN,
Your moſt obedient ſervant,
(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

NUM. XXIV.

COPY of a Letter from Peter Michell, *Eſq; to* William Bolts. *Dated the 27th* Auguſt 1771.

To *William Bolts*, Eſq;

SIR, *Eaſt India Houſe, the 27th Auguſt* 1771.

HAVING laid before the Court of Directors of the *Eaſt India* Company your letter, dated the 16th inſtant, I am commanded, in return, to acquaint you, that the Company have received from *India* no copies of any bills of complaint, either filed againſt you, or at your ſuit in the Mayor's Court of *Calcutta*, or any briefs or extracts from any ſuch bills.

I am, SIR,
Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,
(Signed) P. MICHELL, Sec.

NUM. XXV.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to the Court of* Eaſt India *Directors. Dated 27th* Auguſt 1771.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies*.

GENTLEMEN, *London, the 27th Auguſt* 1771.

IN my letter of the 16th of *Auguſt* inſtant, I requeſted you would order your Clerk to furniſh me with certain extracts from the records of the proceedings of the Mayor's Court of *Calcutta*, in which I am intereſted.

And in a letter of this date, juſt received from your Secretary, he acquaints me, that in anſwer to that application, he is by you commanded to inform me, that you have received *no copies of any bills* of complaint, nor any briefs, or extracts of any bills.

I cannot

I cannot conceive but that ſuch an anſwer to my application could only have been occaſioned by ſome miſapprehenſion of your Secretary, as I neither applied for bills or briefs.

I am therefore under the neceſſity of repeating my application to you, gentlemen. What I want is to have acceſs to, and to be furniſhed with, extracts from the public records, or proceedings of the Court of Juſtice, called the Mayor's Court of *Calcutta*, of which I am a member. Such proceedings only, I mean, as I am moſt materially intereſted in, and which you have received according to the regulations on the eſtabliſhment of your charter. The dates of the proceedings are,

— *October* 1767.
23. *Auguſt*
11. *October* } 1768.
14. Ditto
3. *February* 1769.
26. *January*
— *November* } 1770.
— *December*

It will be of the greateſt detriment and loſs to me if I am not furniſhed with thoſe proceedings, which you, gentlemen, and you only can produce in this country; as they relate to the damages ſuſtained by me, in conſequence of ſeveral illegal proceedings.

I am, GENTLEMEN,
Your moſt obedient ſervant,
(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

NUM. XXVI.

COPY of a Letter from Peter Michell, *Eſq; to* William Bolts. *Dated the* 28*th* Auguſt 1771.

To *William Bolts*, Eſq;

SIR,

I AM directed to acquaint you, that the proceedings in *October* 1767, referred to in your laſt letter, contain only a copy of the judgment in the Mayor's Court, which has been appealed from, by you, to his Majeſty in Council, and has been determined. Of all theſe proceedings you have already received authenticated copies, which were uſed in the courſe of that appeal.

The 23d *Auguſt* 1768. No particulars are found of any proceedings, except that Mr. *Bolts*'s bill of complaint againſt Mr. *Baber* and Mr. *Boughton* were filed and read. A ſummons in each cauſe ordered to iſſue, and a paper ordered to be received, as an exhibit.

The 11th *October* 1768. In the ſame cauſes Mr. *Sparks*, Attorney for the plaintiff, acquainted the Court that he had received the plaintiff's orders to proceed no farther in them.

The

The 14th *October* 1768. Both bills ordered to be diſmiſſed, with coſts.

The 3d *February* 1769. In the cauſe, *Andrew Williams* againſt *William Bolts* and his Attornies. The plaintiff's exceptions to the defendant's anſwer are allowed, with coſts.

The proceedings referred to in 1770, if any ſuch there be, are not received.

I am, SIR,

Eaſt India Houſe, Your very humble ſervant,

28th Aug. 1771. (Signed) P. MICHELL, Sec.

NUM. XXVII.

*COPY of a *Letter from* Peter Michell, *Eſq; to* William Bolts. *Dated the* 31ſt Auguſt 1771.

To Mr. *William Bolts.*

SIR, *Eaſt India Houſe, the* 31ſt *Auguſt* 1771.

THE Court of Directors of the *Eaſt India* Company having been adviſed, by the opinion of the moſt eminent Counſel, that your office of an Alderman of the Mayor's Court of *Calcutta* is, according to the Company's charter of juſtice, become vacant by your abſence from that office contrary to the ſaid charter, I am directed to inform you, that the Court of Directors have this day tranſmitted to *Bengal* their orders, to their Governor and Council, forthwith to proceed, according to the ſaid charter, to the choice of a fit and proper perſon to fill up the ſaid vacancy in your place and ſtead.

I am, SIR,

Your very humble ſervant,

(Signed) P. MICHELL, Sec.

NUM. XXVIII.

COPY of a Letter from William Bolts *to the Court of* Eaſt India *Directors. Dated the* 31ſt *of* October 1771.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies.*

GENTLEMEN, *Harpur-ſtreet, the* 31ſt *of October* 1771.

THE Preſident and Council of *Fort William* having engaged, by their letter of the 13th of *September* 1768, Paragraph CII.—to ſhew the falſity of the ſeveral articles in the memorial which I had the honour to tranſmit,

* See the anſwer to this letter in the Text, Chap. V.

through the ſaid Board, to the Court of Directors, dated the 5th of *September* 1768, reſpecting the management of their affairs, I hope the Court of Directors will think it a piece of natural juſtice, that I ſhould be *furniſhed with a copy of the obſervations* reſpecting the veracity of my ſaid memorial, *if any paper* containing ſuch obſervations ever exiſted: or *if no ſuch paper was ever tranſmitted, that the Court will be pleaſed to ſatisfy me upon that fact.*

I beg leave here to repeat, what I aſſerted yeſterday, in the General Court, that it is not my wiſh to obtain from the Company any paper which may in the leaſt affect the proſecution which I have been ſo unwillingly obliged to inſtitute againſt ſo powerful and reſpectable a body: my whole deſire is to be in poſſeſſion of ſuch papers as affect my character, as a man, and the intereſt of the *Eaſt India* Company, of which I am a proprietor.

I am, with all due reſpect,

GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

(Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.

NUM. XXIX.

COPY of a Letter from Peter Michell, *Eſq; to* William Bolts. *Dated the 6th November* 1771.

To Mr. *William Bolts.*

SIR, *Eaſt India Houſe, the 6th November* 1771.

IN anſwer to your letter to the Court of Directors of the *Eaſt India* Company, dated the 31ſt of *October* laſt, I am commanded by the Court to inform you, that they have received no particular obſervations upon your memorial therein referred to, and that the Preſident and Council have ſent only one ſhort general anſwer upon that ſubject, that your memorial is ſo *notoriouſly falſe*, that they think it needleſs to enter into a minute denial of the aſſertions in it: and as reſpecting what concerned the Preſident, he only renews his former declaration, that *every aſſertion* contained in your letter, which tends to reflect on his character, *is infamouſly falſe and ſcandalous.*

I am, SIR,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

(Signed) P. MICHELL, Sec.

NUM. XXX.

COPY of a Letter from the Creditors of William Bolts *to the Court of* East India *Directors. Dated the 24th* March 1773.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *East Indies*.

GENTLEMEN, *London, the 24th March* 1773.

WE the creditors of Mr. *William Bolts*, who was formerly in your ſervice in *Bengal*, are ſorry to find ourſelves under the neceſſity, for the ſecurity of our own property or that of our conſtituents, which amounts to a very large ſum, of renewing the applications to you for the ſecuring, collecting, and remitting to *England* of that gentleman's outſtanding concerns in *India*.

In order to avoid any future accidental or wilful miſconſtruction of your orders, and the conſequent detrimental delays of buſineſs, it may not be improper to trouble you with a recapitulation of the facts upon which our preſent application is founded, as they appear to us, upon a careful examination of Mr. *Bolts*'s books and papers.

Upon an humble petition and remonſtrance from Mr. *Bolts* to your Court, of the 19th of *May* 1769, the committees of correſpondence and law-ſuits, to whom he was referred on that occaſion, were pleaſed to expreſs a readineſs to ſend out ſuch orders to your Preſidency of *Bengal*, as might be moſt effectual for the recovery of the outſtanding concerns of Mr. *Bolts*, who was thereupon deſired to give a note thereof.

In conſequence of which, in a letter to your Honourable Court, of the 26th of *May* 1769, Mr. *Bolts* gave an account of his concerns, particularly mentioning thoſe outſtanding in the ſalt-countries of *Roymungull*, *Jeſſor*, *Culnea*, and other places ſubordinate to *Hoogly*; and in the ſaid letter, to which we beg leave to refer, it was particularly expreſſed by Mr. *Bolts*, that "as many of his concerns interfered with the private intereſts of thoſe who were to give the orders, every evaſion of the expreſs orders of your Honourable Court might be reaſonably expected, and therefore he truſted your commands would be ſo expreſſed, that no ſubterfuge might take place."

We find that in conſequence of this application, in *June* 1769, your Honourable Court were pleaſed to write the following paragraph in your general letter, *per Lapwing*, to your Preſident and Council in *Bengal*.

"Mr. *William Bolts*, who returned hither from your Preſidency on the *Valentine*, having repreſented, that by your obliging him to leave *Bengal*, his own and the fortunes of ſeveral perſons for whom he was concerned, to the amount of upwards of one hundred and ten thouſand pounds, are left at

the mercy of the natives in different parts of the country; and that the greateſt part thereof, under the oppreſſions he has ſuffered, he apprehends, will never be received, without our interpoſition; we therefore direct, that you give Mr. *Bolts*'s attornies, Meſſrs. *Keir*, *Reed*, *Cator*, and *Gibſon*, effectual aſſiſtance upon all ſuch applications as they may find neceſſary to make to you, for the facilitating the recovery of his outſtanding concerns, as well as thoſe of his conſtituents, in the different parts of the country: and you have herewith a copy of his application to us on this ſubject, for your government."

That in conſequence of this order, Mr. *Bolts*'s Agents in *Calcutta* delivered in, to your Preſident and Council there, an account of that gentleman's outſtanding concerns: which, at the deſire of the ſaid Preſident and Council, was atteſted upon oath, on the 12th of *January* 1770, requeſting their aſſiſtance in the recovery of the debts outſtanding, which, without ſuch aſſiſtance, could not be recovered.

That your Preſident and Council did thereupon reply, in a letter, dated *Fort William*, the 16th of *January* 1770, that the ſaid Preſident would *apply to the Miniſters* for a perwânah to the Fowzdar of *Silhett*: but adding the following words, as the ground of a refuſal of their aſſiſtance towards the recovery of thoſe outſtanding debts, which had ariſen on the ſalt concerns, *viz.*

"As the Honourable the Preſident and Council have every reaſon to imagine, that the reſt of the demands which Mr. *Bolts* hath made, and which are ſpecified in your letter, are on account of contracts made for ſalt, which is a direct and manifeſt breach of the Company's expreſs orders, publicly iſſued by advertiſement, they can never imagine the *Company meant*, when they gave directions to afford you effectual aſſiſtance in collecting in Mr. *Bolts*'s outſtanding concerns, that the Board ſhould aſſiſt you in collecting *unlawful concerns*, or that the Company could conceive Mr. *Bolts*'s demands were of ſuch a nature; nor do the Honourable Preſident and Council think it in their power to afford Mr. *Bolts* any aſſiſtance in the recovery of balances incurred by an illicit trade, publicly prohibited by the Company."

That upon this pretence, Mr. *Bolts*'s Agents, being refuſed any aſſiſtance in thoſe material concerns from your ſaid Preſident and Council, did, on the 29th of *January* 1770, enter a * proteſt againſt them for the conſequences of ſuch refuſal: to which proteſt we beg leave to refer, as entered upon your *Bengal* conſultations.

That to prevent all cavil, evaſion, and ſubterfuge under the double Government, on the 14th *February* 1770, another application was made to your Honourable Court, from a number of Mr. *Bolts*'s creditors, upon an inſpection of the ſtate of that gentleman's concerns, requeſting "you would be pleaſed to ſend directions to the Commiſſioners over all *India*, as well as to the Preſident and Council of your ſeveral ſettlements, to give every neceſſary and proper aſſiſtance to the Attornies, or Agents of Mr. *Bolts*, for the ſecuring, collecting, and remitting to *England* of his outſtanding concerns," upon which you gentlemen were pleaſed, in your general letter, dated the —— *March* 1770, by the ſhip *Lord Mansfield*, to give the following orders to your

* See F, Num. LII.

Preſident and Council at *Calcutta*: "The creditors of Mr. *William Bolts* have preſented a requeſt, deſiring we would ſend directions to our ſeveral ſettlements to give every neceſſary and proper aſſiſtance to his Attornies, or Agents for ſecuring, collecting, and remitting to *England* all his outſtanding concerns; it is therefore our poſitive direction that you comply with their requeſt accordingly."

That in conſequence of your ſaid orders, the Agents of Mr. *Bolts* in *Calcutta*, by letter, dated the 7th *November* 1770, did again apply to your ſaid Preſident and Council, requeſting their aſſiſtance in the premiſes: who, by letter of the 29th *November* 1770, perſiſted in refuſing to give the aſſiſtance required, upon the grounds of their former anſwer, of *January* 1770, to which they referred as definitive.

That upon this abſolute refuſal, on the part of your ſaid Preſident and Council of *Calcutta*, the Agents of Mr. *Bolts*, in the diſcharge of their duty did, under date of the 13th *December* 1770, enter a ſecond proteſt againſt them; to which alſo we beg leave to refer, as the ſame ſtands recorded upon your *Bengal* conſultations. We beg leave to repreſent to your Honourable Court, that upon this refuſal, which was publicly known throughout *Bengal*, Mr. *Bolts*'s debtors in the inland countries have thought themſelves authorized to withhold their debts; while, from bankruptcies, deaths, running away of the debtors, and other accidents, which have happened during the great length of time which has elapſed ſince *September* 1768, when that gentleman was ſent a priſoner to *England*, great detriment has accrued to his eſtate, the effect of which is ſeverely felt by his creditors. Wherefore we beg leave to remark, that whatever queſtion may be agitated between Mr. *Bolts* and the Company, whether the ſalt-trade, on which thoſe very conſiderable balances have ariſen, was legal or illegal; ſuch debts as are outſtanding thereupon, being juſtly due from the contractors to his eſtate, ſhould have been recovered, whether for the ſecurity of the petitioning creditors or the benefit of ſuch perſons as might have a right to damages upon a proſecution for the penalties of ſuch traffic, if illegal: ſince it cannot be alleged, that it was in any degree *malum in ſe*: and therefore the money ought not to remain in the hands of thoſe perſons who, upon no ground whatever, could have a right to the ſums in queſtion.

But from Mr. *Bolts*'s books ahd papers, the facts, which he is ready to verify, to the ſatisfaction of your Honourable Court, relative to this very conſiderable article of ſalt-balances, appear to be, that after the *Engliſh* Company, by their Court of Directors, had diſſolved the ſociety for the excluſive trade in ſalt, eſtabliſhed by their Preſident and Select Committee at *Calcutta*, (whoſe regulations we apprehend could only extend to ſuch perſons as lived under the protection and juriſdiction of the Company) *Johannes Mattias Roſs*, Eſq; a gentleman in Council at the *Dutch* Preſidency of *Chinſurah*, made contracts with the Zemindars of the ſalt pergunnahs, and other *Bengal* Merchants reſident on the ſpot, who were proprietors of khallaries, or ſalt-grounds, for maunds of 82 Siccas, 272,617: and agreeably to the laws of thoſe countries, that the ſalt-grounds were bound until the quantity of ſalt contracted for was worked out, or the penalties of the reſpective bonds paid.

That thoſe contracts were made prior to the reſtrictive perwânahs which your Preſident, *Harry Verelſt*, Eſq; and your Reſident at the *Durbar*, *Francis Sykes*, Eſq; cauſed *Mahommed Reza Khawn* to iſſue, in *October* 1767, prohibiting *Europeans* from trading in ſalt; which is ſo material as to take away all excuſe from the Preſident and Council for their diſobedience of your orders in refuſing to aſſiſt Mr. *Bolts*'s Attornies, in the recovering of his outſtanding debts on the ſalt-contracts.

That Mr. *Roſs* paid for the whole of this ſalt, on contract, at the rate of ninety-five and one hundred *Arcot* rupees *per* hundred maunds of 82 ſiccas, in the pergunnahs, prices never before known to have been paid: obtaining thereby the good-will of all the contractors, and enabling the Zemindars, from his advances, to pay large ſums in to the Dewannee Treaſury on account of their rents, from which the Company have received great benefit.

That Mr. *Bolts* had lent conſiderable ſums of money to Mr. *Roſs*: and upon being apprehenſive, in *September* 1768, that your Preſident and Council at *Calcutta* would ſeize him, and ſend him a priſoner to *England*, having no other method for ſecuring his debt from Mr. *Roſs*, he was obliged, a few days before his ſeizure, to take an aſſignment of theſe contracts, paying a conſiderable advance thereon to Mr. *Roſs*, as appears by a deed and irrevocable power, or procuration, from that gentleman to Mr. *Bolts*.

That at the time of Mr. *Bolts*'s ſeizure, on the 23d of *September* 1768, this account ſtood on his books debtor, for current rupees 272,322. 2 - 3: beſides large ſums advanced ſince by his Agents for charges, with conſiderable ſums alſo paid as duties to the *Engliſh Eaſt India* Company, and their collectors, as Dewans: by which the Company have alſo received conſiderable benefit.

That the whole quantity of ſalt hitherto received by Mr. *Bolts*'s Agents, according to the accounts which have hitherto come to hand, does not exceed maunds 100,000: which is deficient of the contracts for 272,617 maunds, by the quantity of one hundred ſeventy-two thouſand ſix hundred and ſeventeen maunds.

That the price of ſalt in *September* 1768, when Mr. *Bolts* was ſent away priſoner by the Preſident and Council, was, at *Dacca* and *Rajahbarry* (the markets for which he intended the ſalt) at upwards of three hundred *Arcott* rupees *per* hundred maunds of merchantable ſalt, at which rate, if his ſalt had gone regularly to market, the quantity of 272,617 maunds, would have produced rupees 817,851. Whereas he ſtates to us, that by the obſtructions and impoſitions which Mr. *Roſs* himſelf and his Agents have met with, and by the refuſal, on the part of your Preſident and Council, to give their aſſiſtance in the premiſes, his eſtate will ſuffer a loſs of at leaſt ſix lacks of rupees: which is a very conſiderable object to him, and to us his creditors.

Upon conſideration of this matter, we flatter ourſelves, that you, gentlemen, will not approve of the conduct of your ſervants, part of whom, being principals in the ſeizing of Mr. *Bolts*, appear evidently to have evaded your poſitive orders and juſt intentions, in gratification of their private reſentment: for in whatever light we view this matter, the ſums ſtated were juſtly due from the Zemindars and black Merchants, nor could the Preſident and Council of *Calcutta* have the leaſt plea, upon the ſuppoſed illega-

lity,

lity of the trade, to protect thoſe debtors againſt the fulfilling of their contracts, upon ſuch large ſums and high prices being paid to them.

We therefore humbly hope, you will give the neceſſary directions for rectifying this diſobedience of orders, and doing that juſtice which may protect innocent men, who only wiſh to receive the aſſiſtance of the *India* Company for obtaining payment of their juſt and lawful debts, without wiſhing to involve themſelves, unleſs dragged into the diſpute, in the queſtions, whether the ſeizing of Mr. *Bolts*, or the trade he carried on, were legal or illegal? The money due to us, is not controverted: but our intereſt is a very large concern, and ſuch as muſt deeply affect us all.

Where Governments have thought themſelves under the neceſſity of exerting thoſe acts of power, the prevailing authority have ever held themſelves conſcientiouſly bound to protect the property of the perſon ſeized, or ſent out of the country; much more ſo, where it extends to innocent creditors. We therefore repeat our requeſt, that you will give your ſpecific orders to your Preſident and Council, for giving effectual aſſiſtance to the Attornies of Mr. *Bolts*, for the recovery of the ſeveral ſalt and other balances in queſtion, particularly thoſe ariſen on this tranſaction with Mr. *Roſs*.

We are, with reſpect, GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervants,

(Signed) FRANCIS DOUGLAS,
ANSELM BEAUMONT,
GILES STIBBERT,
EDMUND BOEHM, } Attornies for HENRY VANSITTART and
ROGER BOEHM, } GEORGE VANSITTART.
JOHN BLAND, for BENJAMIN WILDING.
JAMES SHAW, for MATTHEW MILLAR.
JOHN GRAY, for Mrs. MARY PLOWMAN.
THOMAS BARRY, for WALTER ONGE.
CHARLES LEECHMERE, for Col. CHARLES CHAPMAN.
DAVID WEBSTER, for Sir ROBERT FLETCHER.
JOHN THWAITE, for JOHN COOK.
JOHN TORRANE, } for CHARLES MARSH, on account of
} EYRE EVANS CROWE.
WM. BRIGHTWELL SUMNER, for JOHN HOLME.
THOMAS RAIKES, for WALTER WILKINS.
WILLIAM PULTENEY, for Mrs. and Miſs JOHNSTONE.
WILLIAM ROGERS,
GEORGE JOHNSTONE,
STEPHEN LUSHINGTON.

NUM. XXXI.

COPY of a Letter from Peter Michell, *Eſq*; *to* Francis Douglas, Anſelm Beaumont, Giles Stibbert, *Eſquires, and the reſt of the Creditors of Mr.* William Bolts. *Dated the 6th* April 1773.

GENTLEMEN,

THE Court of Directors have ordered me to acknowledge their receipt of your letter, dated the 24th of *March* paſt, and to acquaint you, that they are at no loſs to recollect the ſeveral applications, remonſtrances, letters,

letters, and proceedings therein referred to: and that they are ſtill of opinion, ſuppoſing the anſwer received from the Preſidency of *Fort William* to be founded on truth, that the Preſident and Council are not only excuſable, but commendable, in the diſtinction they make upon the orders ſent them from hence, touching the outſtanding concerns of Mr. *Bolts*. For the Court of Directors cannot but entertain the ſame idea with them, of the very great impropriety of aſſiſting any ſolvent man, or the creditors of any inſolvent man, to collect in debts contracted in an illicit trade: and in that light they think themſelves bound to conſider all traffic and commerce carried on by any of the Company's ſervants who, after reſigning the ſervice, not only trade without licence, but, after repeated prohibitions to the contrary. This being their ſenſe of the matter, and confirmed by ſome of the ableſt lawyers this country ever knew, the Court of Directors find themſelves precluded from taking the part you deſire, until they are ſatisfied, that theſe outſtanding debts, due to Mr. *Bolts*, were contracted in a legal and warrantable commerce, before he quitted the Company's ſervice: which the Preſident and Council at *Fort William*, who have examined into this fact, poſitively deny.

The Court of Directors have alſo ordered me to inform you, that a ſuit is now depending in his Majeſty's Court of Exchequer, wherein one of the great points for deciſion, is this very power aſſumed by Mr. *Bolts*, of trading, after having quitted the Company's ſervice; and after receiving orders from the Preſident and Council, to deſiſt from trade. The general letters from *Bengal* aſſure the Court of Directors, that the moſt effectual aſſiſtance has been given to Mr. *Bolts*'s Attornies, in the recovery of all his outſtanding lawful concerns. To do more, could never be the intention of any orders ſent from hence, however generally expreſſed: and the Court of Directors flatter themſelves you do not mean now to require a different conduct from them.

I am, GENTLEMEN,

Eaſt India Houſe, Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,
6th April 1773. (Signed) P. MICHELL, Sec.

NUM. XXXII.

COPY of a Letter from the Creditors of William Bolts *to the Court of Directors of the* Eaſt India *Company. Dated the* 23*d* April 1773.

To the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies*.

GENTLEMEN, *London, the* 23*d April* 1773.

THE anſwer we have received, through your Secretary, to the letter we had the honour to preſent to the Court of Directors, dated the 24th *March* paſt, is ſo very unſatisfactory, and ſeems written with ſo little attention to the true principles of juſtice, or the particular ſtate of facts enumerated

rated in that letter, that we cannot help requeſting the preſent Court of Directors to take the ſubject under their re-conſideration.

The arguments on which we found our claim to your aſſiſtance, in the recovery of the outſtanding debts which may be juſtly due to the eſtate of Mr. *William Bolts*, are founded on ſuch irreſiſtible principles of law and good conſcience, that we cannot believe any lawyer intitled to exerciſe that honourable profeſſion, much leſs thoſe who are moſt eminent therein, can have given any opinion, upon a fair ſtate of the caſe, capable of reſiſting our demands.

With the ſmall knowledge we poſſeſs, we requeſt that three of our number may be permitted to meet thoſe eminent lawyers in your preſence, and to reaſon the caſe before you, upon any day that may be moſt convenient. This is a piece of juſtice never denied by the ſuperior Boards of this country, and cannot prove derogatory to the honour of the Directors of the *Eaſt India* Company. The heads of our arguments are ſo very convincing to us, that we have no difficulty in communicating them, that the counſel, who may be ſo averſe to our requeſt, may come with all poſſible preparation.

Firſt, We lay down as a fact, that the whole judicial, executive, and legiſlative authority formerly exerciſed in *Bengal*, by the great Mogul and the Nabobs, is veſted in the *Eaſt India* Company, as appears by Mr. *Sykes*'s letter from the *Durbar*, dated the 28th *July* 1765; by Lord *Clive*'s letter to the Select Committee of the 16th *January* 1767; by the proceedings of the Select Committee at *Bengal*, on the 18th *September* 1765; by Lord *Clive*'s minute on the Select Committees proceedings of the 3d *September* 1766, and by various letters of the Court of Directors, particularly that of the 28th *Auguſt* 1771, to their Preſident and Council at *Calcutta*.

Secondly, We inſiſt that the government of *Bengal* is perfectly deſpotic; and, Thirdly, It is farther admitted by all who have been in *India*, that, according to the preſent conſtitution of government in *Bengal*, no debts beyond the limits of the Company's charter can be recovered without the interpoſition of the ruling power, much leſs when contrary to their inclination.

The Court of Directors, by giving orders to aſſiſt in recovering the lawful debts of Mr. *Bolts*, and the Governor and Council, by acknowledging they have given aſſiſtance to Mr. *Bolts*'s Attornies in recovering thoſe which they conceived lawful, acknowledge the general principle now ſtated and contended for. The concluſion then which both parties muſt agree in (unleſs party and faction ſhould ſhed their baneful influence on matters of public juſtice) is this, that whether the trade on which thoſe debts were contracted was lawful or unlawful, with reſpect to the prohibitions of the *Eaſt India* Company, yet not being a tranſaction any way contrary to the law of nature, or the good of ſociety (as may be proved even from the inſtructions from your Honourable Court, of *September* 1769, *laying the ſalt trade open to all*) the debts are juſtly due from the perſons who made the contracts, and have received the money, in conſideration of the conditions which they were bound to perform: and therefore if no objection comes from thoſe debtors againſt the juſtice of the demand, agreeably to contract, the Company cannot upon any principle of equity refuſe their aſſiſtance in recovering them, any more than other debts. If the Company have any claims upon Mr. *Bolts* for penalties

nalties or forfeitures in conſequence of that trade, it is as much their intereſt as that of the creditors (if the Directors mean the benefit of the Company only and not the ruin of an individual) that all debts due to Mr. *Bolts* ſhould be recovered from thoſe who juſtly owe them. If a man ſhould receive money upon contract, to deliver wool, though it ſhould be run into foreign parts, or buy *India* goods which had been ſmuggled into theſe kingdoms, the King's Courts of Juſtice could not refuſe their authority here for the recovery of the debts, upon an allegation that both tranſactions had been contrary to law: nor would they permit the parties ſued to plead either of theſe circumſtances in bar of debts which were, upon every conſideration, equally due from them. Theſe are general principles, without conſidering the particular circumſtances of Mr. *Bolts*'s caſe.

But when we reflect, that he was ſent from *Calcutta* by force, under the authority of the ſervants of the *Eaſt India* Company, and that from thence, the *Eaſt India* Company are more particularly reſponſible for his effects, we cannot permit ourſelves to entertain a thought, that the Directors of the *Eaſt India* Company, from any motives of perſonal reſentment, will give a ground for claims againſt the Company, which might be obviated by the plain line of impartial juſtice. Whether the money be due to the Creditors or forfeited to the Company is a matter of future conſideration: the point in which both are equally intereſted is, to recover it from thoſe debtors who can plead no reaſon whatſoever why it ſhould remain in their hands.

But ſuppoſing we were even wrong in the foregoing argument, the truth is evident from the deeds, ready to be produced, that thoſe tranſactions in ſalt were not undertaken by Mr. *Bolts*, but Mr. *Johannes Mattias Roſs*, a gentleman of Council at the *Dutch* Factory; who was not comprehended in any prohibitory orders exiſting at the time the contracts were made, and that the aſſignments made to Mr. *Bolts*, were merely to ſecure payment of a conſiderable ſum due to him from Mr. *Roſs*.

We are, with reſpect, GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obedient ſervants,

(Signed)

JOHN GRAY, . . . for Mrs. PLOWMAN.
JOHN TORRANE, . for CHARLES MARSH, on account, EYRE EVANS CROWE.
ROGER BOEHM, . . for GEORGE VANSITTART.
JA. and DAVID WEBSTER, for Sir ROBERT FLETCHER.
THOMAS BARRY, . . for WALTER ONGE.
EDMUND BOEHM, . . Executor to HENRY VANSITTART.
ARNOLD NESBITT, . . for Major RICHARD SHERLOCK.
WILLIAM PULTENEY, GEORGE BRODIE. Truſtee for Mrs. JOHNSTONE and Miſs B. JOHNSTONE.
JAMES SHAW, . . for MATTHEW MILLER.
CHARLES LEECHMERE, GILES STIBBERT. for Col. CHARLES CHAPMAN.
STEPHEN LUSHINGTON, GEORGE JOHNSTONE. FRANCIS DOUGLAS. ANSELM BEAUMONT. on account, the eſtate of MARY FRENCH, deceaſed.

NUM. XXXIII.

COPY of a Letter from Peter Michell, *Esq; to the Creditors of* William Bolts. *Dated the 13th* May 1773.

To Messrs. *Francis Douglas*, *Anselm Beaumont*, *Giles Stibbert*, *&c.* Creditors of Mr. *William Bolts*.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE received orders from the Court of Directors to acquaint you, in answer to your letter of the twenty-third last month, that they have taken into consideration all that has passed relative to your requisition, repeatedly endeavoured to be enforced on the Court, of laying their commands on the Presidency of *Fort William*, to give effectual assistance in the recovery of the outstanding debts due to the estate of Mr. *William Bolts*. They are sorry to find, that the answer given by the late Court of Directors to your former application on this subject appears so very unsatisfactory, for after the most impartial discussion of your request and their answer, they can by no means agree in opinion with you, that little attention has been paid to the true principles of justice by that Court of Directors, nor could the present Court think themselves at liberty to accede to your proposition, of desiring some of the ablest lawyers of this country (were they now in a state of practice) to meet three of your number, to argue points of law before them. They apprehend this would be taking upon them a degree of law-learning which it would be arrogance to assume; besides the opinion of those lawyers went only to one single point, *viz.* that Mr. *Bolts* had no right, without licence, to carry on trade in *India*, after he had quitted the Company's service. The consequence followed, that all such trade must be unlawful: he is accordingly called to an account for it, and it will soon be determined by the judgment of a Court of Judicature, whether that opinion was well or ill founded.

With respect to Mr. *Bolts*'s dealings previous to the period of his resignation, the Court of Directors insist that his whole trade in salt, beetlenut, and tobacco, from his first arrival in *Bengal* until his resignation of the Company's service, in *November* 1766, were expresly prohibited, contrary to covenants, and consequently illicit: and that he is now equally responsible, and as liable to prosecution in that respect as the Company's servants against whom suits were lately ordered for carrying on those trades from 1765.

Your arguments, that the judicial, executive, and legislative authority in *Bengal* is vested in the Company, that the government there is despotic, and that no debts beyond the limits of the Company's charter can be recovered, without the interposition of the ruling power (meaning the Company or their Presidencies) the Court of Directors think they are under no necessity

to

to conteſt with you on this occaſion, becauſe the admiſſion of all theſe doctrines appears to them wholly inapplicable to the preſent queſtion, which is not whether their Preſidency can give aſſiſtance in the recovery of outſtanding debts, but whether it is fit and right they ſhould do ſo where the trade from whence ſuch debts aroſe was illegal.

The diſtinction taken by you, between tranſactions againſt the law of nature or the good of ſociety, and thoſe prohibited by ſtatute-law, or the poſitive injunctions of thoſe who have a legal right and authority to impoſe them, cannot, in the opinion of the Court of Directors, be at all ſupported by the caſes you ſtate, and the inferences you draw from them; for the judicial determinations upon thoſe caſes happen to be diametrically repugnant to the uſe you would make of them. For example, in the caſe of wool run into foreign parts, all inſurances, not only on that, but on all other commodities prohibited by ſtatute-law, are irrecoverable. The inſtances of legal deciſions on this point are in the memory of every Merchant: nay more, notes or other ſecurities given for debts ariſing from trades prohibited by ſtatutes, are wholly irrecoverable. Nor are you more fortunate, the Court of Directors obſerve, in the caſe you ſtate of *India*-goods ſmuggled into or out of this kingdom. You venture to pronounce, that the Courts of Juſtice would not refuſe their authority for recovery of demands ariſing from ſuch tranſactions. Now in theſe breaches of the ſtatute-law, the *India* Company principally, if not ſolely ſuffers: and therefore the reaſoning is not ſo ſtrong as where the public revenue is prejudiced. Yet, in a very recent inſtance, the firſt Court of Law in this kingdom would not ſuffer a debt to be recovered againſt the Commander of an *India*-ſhip, proved to be due for goods carried out by him to *India*, becauſe it appeared in evidence, that the goods were to be clandeſtinely conveyed on board the ſhip, without the conſent of the Company, contrary to an Act of Parliament. There was no *malum in ſe*, nothing againſt the law of nature in the above-mentioned caſes: nevertheleſs the deciſions have been always uniform, and all demands of that kind held irrecoverable. The Court of directors hope they need not obſerve how directly theſe determinations apply to Mr. *Bolts*'s caſe: and they wiſh to aſk, whether it is not a downright ſoleciſm to proſecute a man for the recovery of penalties incurred by an unlawful trade, and at the ſame time, to be aiding and aſſiſting to him in the recovery of debts contracted in ſuch trade? They alſo deſire leave to put a caſe to you. Suppoſe in the preſent ſuit in the Court of Exchequer againſt Mr. *Bolts*, he ſhould be in law liable to the penalties ſued for, and it ſhould appear in evidence, that the Company encouraged the very trade they complain of, by aſſiſting him in getting in his debts, owing to him in that trade which, without ſuch aſſiſtance, could not be recovered: would the Court decree that the Company ought to recover ſuch penalties againſt him, and ſo avail themſelves of their own wrong doing? Certainly not.

In this diſcuſſion of the matter, the Court of Directors deſire to be underſtood, that they wiſh and mean to give Mr. *Bolts* every aſſiſtance in their power, towards enabling him to recover all debts due to him, or his employers, contracted in a fair and legal trade. You mention, in your letter,

one inſtance of this kind, which is impoſſible for the Court of Directors to have any knowledge of; and conſequently to decide upon. But if Mr. *Bolts* will deliver in an account of his outſtanding concerns, and particularize the nature and dates of them, the Court will tranſmit them without delay to the Preſidency of *Fort William*, and will give their poſitive orders that the utmoſt efforts be uſed to obtain the recovery of ſuch debts and demands as that Preſidency ſhall not be poſſeſſed of full evidence to ſhew the illegality of. More than this they hope you will not preſs them to do: as it would give them inexpreſſible concern to be under a neceſſity of refuſing a requeſt made to them by gentlemen of your conſideration.

I am, GENTLEMEN,

Eaſt India Houſe,
the 13th May 1773.

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,
(Signed) PETER MICHELL, Secretary.

LETTER

LETTER I.

CONTAINING Copies of Judicial Proceedings; alſo Opinions of the Learned in the Law on the Caſe of *William Bolts*.

COPIES of the Proceedings of the late Mayor's Court of Calcutta, *on the* 11*th and* 14*th* October 1768 *and* 26*th* January 1770, *atteſted under the Seal of the Court by* John Levett, *Eſq; Mayor, and Mr.* John May, *Regiſter.*

NUM. I.

Calcutta, Tueſday the 11th Day of *October* 1768.

At a Court held, preſent,

Cornelius Goodwin, Eſq; Mayor,
Meſſrs. *George Lear*,
Joſeph Jekyll,
Ruſſell Skinner, Aldermen.

William Bolts againſt *Edward Baber.*
William Bolts againſt *Charles William Boughton.*

THE Court directed the Regiſter to ſummon a full Court, to be held on *Friday* next, IN ORDER TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE BILLS OF COMPLAINT FILED IN THESE CAUSES SHALL BE ANSWERED, PLEADED OR DEMURRED TO, OR DISMISSED: whereupon Mr. *George Sparks*, Attorney for the complainant in theſe cauſes, acquainted the Court that he would not proceed any farther in any of theſe cauſes: and being aſked the reaſon of it by the Court, he anſwered, that he had received directions from the complainant when he was on board the *Pilot-ſloop* (upon his departure for *England*) deſiring him, the ſaid *George Sparks*, not * to proceed any farther in either of theſe cauſes. Upon which this Court doth think fit to order and direct, and doth accordingly order and direct, that the farther conſideration of and proceedings in theſe cauſes, ſhall be poſtponed until Mr. *Thomas Morris* (who is Attorney in theſe cauſes for the defendants) ſhall have an opportunity of acquainting the ſaid defendants with what Mr. *Sparks* hath acquainted the Court, relating to theſe cauſes, as is herein abovementioned, and receiving their directions therein.

* *Bolts* well foreſaw what would become of his ſuits in the Mayor's Court; but his directions to the Attorney were, to proceed as far as he could; particularly to ſee what lengths the parties or the Court would go therein. The proceedings ſpeak for themſelves.

NUM. II.

Calcutta, Friday, the 14th Day of October 1768.

At a Court held, preſent,

Cornelius Goodwin, Eſq; Mayor,
Meſſrs. *Joſeph Jekyll*,
Ruſſell Skinner, Aldermen.

William Bolts againſt *Edward Baber.* } MR. MORRIS, Attorney for the defendant, moved to have the Bill of Complaint in this cauſe diſmiſſed with coſts; whereupon the Court granted the ſaid motion; and ordered, that the complainant's ſaid Bill of Complaint in this cauſe ſhall be diſmiſſed with coſts; and it is accordingly hereby diſmiſſed with coſts, being current rupees . . . . .

William Bolts againſt *Charles Wm. Boughton.* } MR. MORRIS, Attorney for the defendant, moved to have the complainant's Bill of Complaint in this cauſe diſmiſſed with coſts; whereupon the Court granted the ſaid motion; and ordered, that the complainant's ſaid Bill of Complaint in this cauſe ſhall be diſmiſſed with coſts; and it is accordingly hereby diſmiſſed with coſts, being current rupees . . . .

NUM. III.

Calcutta, Friday, the 26th January 1770.

At a Court held, preſent,

John Levett, Eſq; Mayor,
Meſſrs. *Cornelius Goodwin*,
David Killican, Aldermen.

MR. JOSEPH CATOR, Attorney for Mr. *William Bolts*, appearing in Court, informed the Court, that Mr. *Driver*, his Attorney at law, applied to the regiſter for copies of the Bills of Complaint and Exhibits, filed by the ſaid *William Bolts*, againſt Mr. *Baber* and Mr. *Boughton*, and he could not yet get copies thereof. To which the regiſter anſwered, that he has made, and is making diligent ſearch for the ſaid Bills of Complaint and Exhibits among the papers in the office, and they are not yet to be found.

Paſchal Deſſa, a Clerk to Mr. *John Holme*, the late regiſter of the Court, and now in the employ of the preſent regiſter, was ſworn to make true anſwer to all ſuch queſtions as ſhould be aſked him by the Court touching the Bills and Exhibits aforeſaid.

Q. Being aſked, Whether he knows thoſe Bills and Exhibits were filed in the office?

A. Yes, they were filed.

Q. Whether the ſaid Bills and Exhibits were kept in his care or not?

A. They

A. They were kept among the papers filed in the Office; which papers Mr. *Holme* uſed to call for now and then to peruſe, and that Mr. *Holme* uſed to carry them out with him, and uſed to bring them back to the office, and keep them in his own deſk.

Q. Whether he does know what became of them?

A. He does not know.

Nicholas Jebb, another clerk to the ſaid *John Holme*, late regiſter of this Court, and now in the employ of the preſent regiſter, was ſworn to make true anſwer to all ſuch queſtions as ſhould be aſked him by the Court touching the Bills of Complaint and Exhibits aforeſaid.

Q. Being aſked, Whether the Bills of Complaint and Exhibits of *William Bolts* againſt *Baber* and *Boughton* were filed in the regiſter's office?

A. Yes, they were filed.

Q. Whether he knows what became of thoſe Bills and Exhibits?

A. He believes Mr. *Holme* uſed to keep them in his own deſk, in the office.

Q. Whether he knows they were carried out of the office by Mr. *Holme*?

A. He believes Mr. *Holme* carried them to the Governor, Mr. *Verelſt*.

Q. What makes him believe ſo?

A. He believes, to ſhew them to Mr. *Verelſt*, as his name was mentioned in the ſaid papers.

Q. Whether he knows of the ſaid Bills of Complaint and Exhibits ever being brought back again into the office?

A. He does not know.

Q. What time were they carried to the Governor, Mr. *Verelſt*?

A. He does not know the exact time.

Mr. *John May*, regiſter of this Court, ſworn to make true anſwer to all ſuch queſtions as ſhould be aſked him by the Court, touching the Bills of Complaint and Exhibits filed by *William Bolts* againſt Mr. *Baber* and Mr. *Boughton*.

Q. Being aſked, Whether he knows any thing of thoſe Bills of Complaint and Exhibits ſince he was ſworn into the office of the regiſter?

A. No, that he has not ſeen them yet, but is ſearching for them in the office.

To all who ſhall ſee theſe preſents, or hear them read, I, *John Levett*, Eſq; Mayor, at *Calcutta*, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal*, do hereby make known and certify, that *John May*, who hath ſigned and atteſted the certificate hereunto annexed, is the regiſter of the Honourable the Mayor's Court at *Calcutta* aforeſaid; and that to acts, inſtruments, and other writings by him ſigned and atteſted full faith and credit is given in Court or without.

The Mayor's Court Seal.

In Faith and teſtimony whereof, I, the ſaid Mayor, have cauſed the ſeal of the office of Mayoralty of *Calcutta* aforeſaid, to be hereunto put and affixed, and the copy of the proceedings mentioned in the ſaid certificate to be alſo hereunto annexed. Dated in *Calcutta* aforeſaid, this thirtieth day of *January*, in the year of our Lord one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventy.

J. MAY, Reg.

(Signed) JOHN LEVETT, Mayor.

I, *John May*, Regiſter of the Honourable the Mayor's Court at *Calcutta*, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal*, do hereby certify and atteſt, That the within writings are true copies of the proceedings of the ſaid Court, regarding the diſmiſſion of Bills of Complaint of *William Bolts* againſt *Edward Baber*, and *William Bolts* againſt *Charles William Boughton*, and affidavits relating thereto, carefully collated by me, with the originals lodged in the Regiſtry of the ſaid Court.

Town-hall, Calcutta, the thirtieth day of *January*, in the year of our Lord one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventy.

(Signed) J. MAY, Reg.

NUM. IV.

COPY of the Opinion of Mr. Serjeant Glynn *upon the Caſe of* William Bolts. *Dated* London *the* 23*d* May 1769.

THE amotion of Mr. *Bolts* from the office of Alderman doth not appear to me, by the caſe here ſtated, to be in the leaſt degree warrantable. But for this particular injury, Mr. *Bolts*'s redreſs muſt be purſued by appeal to the King in Council. However, as a preliminary to the injurious treatment Mr. *Bolts* afterwards received, it will certainly very much aggravate the damages, if Mr. *Bolts* is furniſhed with ſufficient evidence to prove, by whoſe order and direction the outrage was committed upon his perſon.

That outrage, I conceive, can be authorized by no law, or conſtitution derived from the crown, or bye-laws and ordinances of the Company, or any leſs authority than the legiſlature. And unleſs an Act of Parliament, or Charters confirmed by Parliament, gave ſuch power in clear and expreſs terms, ſo as not to admit of any other conſtruction, I think it will be impoſſible to juſtify a proceeding ſo repugnant to every idea of law, as to remove a man by force in conſequence of an extrajudicial order only, from his habitation, family, and trade.

The general power to prevent perſons not authorized by the Company from reſiding within their factories, muſt have a reaſonable and legal conſtruction, and muſt be enforced by the legal order of judicial proceedings, as many perſons may literally be within the reſtraint, and yet have a good title to continue there.

Mr. *Bolts*'s caſe, however, doth not ſtand upon that ground: he had a good right firſt to come within the ſettlement, and till the merits of his appeal had been decided upon, though the exerciſe of his office was ſuſpended, yet he might ſtill be an Alderman *de jure*, and be obliged, by the duty of his office, to attend at *Calcutta*. His relation to the Company cannot be ſaid to be extinguiſhed till the judgment of amotion was affirmed. Mr. *Bolts*'s remedy, I think, muſt be an action of aſſault and falſe impriſonment againſt the perſons that ſeized him, and if he can get proof of the orders that were given for ſeizing him, againſt the givers of ſuch orders.

May 2*d*, 1769. (Signed) JOHN GLYNN

NUM.

NUM. V.

COPY of the Opinion of John Dunning, *Esq*; *upon the Case of* William Bolts. *Dated the* 21*st* June 1769.

UPON this case, if the facts can be proved, and there is nothing more in it than is stated; I am of opinion, that the violence which Mr. *Bolts* complains of, in the forcible seizure of his person, on the 23d of *September* 1768, and the subsequent imprisonment and conveyance of him from *Bengal* to *England*, cannot be justified: and that he may recover a suitable satisfaction by action, against such as he can prove to have been the authors or instruments of the injury. For though the 5th *George* I. C. 22. authorizes the seizing and sending to *England* any of his Majesty's subjects, who shall sail, go or repair to, or be in the *East Indies*, contrary to the laws then in being, in order to answer for that offence; and the 9th *George* I. C. 26. extends this power to the case of all persons going, sailing, or repairing to, or being found in the *East Indies*, other than such as are lawfully authorized thereunto, who are thereby declared to be guilty of a high crime and misdemeanour: Mr. *Bolts*'s case does not appear to me, upon this state of it, to fall within the provisions of either of those Acts of Parliament, and I know no other applicable to this subject. Mr. *Bolts* going out in the Company's service, certainly did not *sail*, *go*, or *repair* to the *East Indies contrary to law*, but, on the contrary, was *lawfully authorized thereunto:* and as to his *being*, and *being found* there, after he had resigned the Company's service, I doubt the Governor and Council were mistaken in thinking, that he had therefore no title to remain longer in *India*. It should rather seem, that his office of Alderman of *Calcutta*, while he held it, was a lawful authority to him to remain there: and even supposing his removal from that office, on the 13th *September*, to have been regular (which seems at best very questionable) I do not conceive, that the Governor and Council were warranted in treating him in the way he was treated on the 23d, which was, as is stated, even before the time allowed him by the charter to appeal was expired, and the interval much too short for him to have got ready for his departure, had he been so inclined. I cannot think his continuing in *India* under such circumstances, can be deemed a high crime and misdemeanour.

(Signed) J. DUNNING.

Lincoln's Inn, 21*st June* 1769.

NUM. VI.

COPY of the Opinion of Alexander Wedderburn, *Esq*; *upon the Case of* William Bolts. *Dated the* 13*th* July 1769.

THE general question depends upon two points: the 1st, whether the Governor and Council at *Calcutta* have a right to send any person home, who is not actually in the service of the Company? For if they have no such

right, their proceedings againſt Mr. *Bolts* can in no reſpect be juſtified. The 2d, whether in caſe they have ſuch a right as to perſons in general, the ſituation of Mr. *Bolts*, as an Alderman of *Calcutta*, exempted him from their authority? and that will include in it the queſtion, whether he was, on the the 23d of *September* 1768, intitled to the privileges of an Alderman? As to the firſt queſtion, it is, in my apprehenſion, a very important, and by no means a clear point. To form a deciſive opinion upon it, one ought to have conſidered with great care all the Charters and Acts of Parliament that have created and continued the *Eaſt India* Company, as a corporation intitled to an excluſive trade. The Acts 9th and 10th of *William* the Third, Chap. 44th, is the firſt legiſlative authority, and, in my opinion, the firſt legal authority for an excluſive trade, though the old *Eaſt India* Company did, in fact, under a Royal Charter, exerciſe the right of excluding all perſons but themſelves, from going to the *Eaſt Indies*, and were, in ſome degree, countenanced in the aſſertion of that right by very reſpectable opinions. The Act of King *William*, on which the greateſt part of the powers of the preſent Company (though not all their powers) is founded, gives to the Company the ſole trade thither. The conſequence of which is, that no perſon without licence from the Company can go thither for the purpoſe of trade; and it ſeems a very natural inference, that no perſon contrary to their licence can remain there for the like purpoſe. The Act 5th *George* the Firſt, Chap. 21ſt, is commonly ſuppoſed to have confirmed or eſtabliſhed the right of the Company to ſeize and ſend home to *England*, ſuch perſons as are in *India* contrary to their licence: but it appears to me to be a matter of ſome doubt, whether the conſtruction of that Act is not to be reſtrained by the Preamble, which plainly reſpects the caſe of perſons ſubjects of *Britain*, trading to *India* under foreign commiſſions; and that Act, as well as the ſubſequent Act 7th *George* the Firſt, Chap. 21ſt, was certainly paſſed upon occaſion of the *Oſtend* Company. If ſo, it may very reaſonably be doubted, whether the reſtraint of the charter founded on the 9th and 10th *William* the Third, that no perſon ſhall trade to *India* except under the authority of the Company, would be ſufficient to juſtify the ſeizure and arreſt of a perſon who came to *India* under the authority and leave of the Company, and was guilty of no other offence but that of remaining there after his relation to the Company was either by his or their act determined. But this point having never, that I know, come in judgment in any Court, and the conſequences of it being very important, in whatever way it may be decided, I rather chuſe to ſtate the different views in which it may be taken, than to give a deciſive opinion upon it. Thus far I am clear in my opinion, that, ſuppoſing the Company, *i. e.* The Governor and Council, to have an abſolute right to ſend home any perſon *being in India*, yet it does not follow, that they can exerciſe that right at pleaſure. There muſt be a reaſonable notice, and upon the principles of the law of *England*, the right cannot be exerciſed injuriouſly, without ſubjecting themſelves to an action at the ſuit of the perſon they meant to oppreſs. If, therefore, Mr. *Bolts* had not a reaſonable notice to ſettle his affairs, and prepare for his return, but was removed, under circumſtances that manifeſt an intention to injure and oppreſs him, I think he will be intitled

to redreſs by an action upon the caſe againſt thoſe by whoſe orders he was ſeized and ſent home.

As to the ſecond point, I think the office of Alderman under the charter 26th *George* II. (though it is an office for life) confers no right upon the perſon poſſeſſed of it, contrary to the rights of the Company. While he has a right to remain in *India*, his right to the office ſubſiſts; if his right to continue in *India* ceaſes, the office, after an abſence of twelve months, becoming vacant, his right to appeal will not prolong his right to remain there, if that right is not incident to the office. In this caſe, upon the facts ſtated, the amotion of Mr. *Bolts* is altogether illegal: and that meaſure would, with other facts, ſhew the proceeding againſt him to be injurious and unwarrantable.

13th July 1769. (Signed) AL. WEDDERBURN.

NUM. VII.

COPIES of Queries upon the general Caſe of William Bolts, *laid before* Alexander Wedderburn, John Dunning, John Glynn, *and* John Lee, *Eſquires; with their reſpective Anſwers thereto.*

Queſtion. WHETHER Mr. *Bolts*, after the notice given him to go to *England*, as an Alderman of the Mayor's Court, might not lawfully trade, not interfering with the intereſts of the Company? The preambles of the ſeveral acts of parliament taking notice of the encouragement for perſons ſettling at *Calcutta*, and the reſtraining clauſes in the ſaid acts ſeeming to relate only to perſons going to *India* without licence.——And if not, how far will Mr. *Bolts* be benefited, in this reſpect, by his having paid duties and received permits and licences, from the Company and Country Princes, for the goods in which he was concerned, after he had received notice to go to *England*?

Anſwer by Mr. Wedderburn. While Mr. *Bolts* continued to be an Alderman of the Mayor's Court at *Calcutta*, his reſidence there was lawful, and it could not be illegal in him to carry on any trade, not inconſiſtent with the orders and regulations of the Company.

Anſwer by Mr. Glynn. I do not think Mr. *Bolts* liable to any of the penalties for trading to the *Indies* without the licence of the Company, as he embarked lawfully, was ſubject to the regulations of the Company, and gave the ſecurity preſcribed. It would be hard for the Company, by a ſudden revocation of his licences, to ſubject him to ſuch penalties.

Answer by Mr. Dunning and Mr. Lee. We are of opinion that Mr. *Bolts*, in virtue of his office of Alderman, had a right to reside at *Calcutta*; and residing there, had a right to trade in that country, not interfering with the interests of the Company. The permits from the Company and the powers in *India* are so many recognitions of Mr. *Bolts*'s right to trade.

Question. Whether the forcible seizure, imprisonment, and transportation of Mr. *Bolts* to *England*, considering him only as resident within the limits of the Company's government, after having gone there by the authority required by their charter, was legal, or not?

Answer by Mr. Wedderburn. If Mr. *Bolts* had not been an Alderman of the Mayor's Court, I rather incline to think, that he would have had no right to remain there against the orders of the Company, signified to him by their servants there, after a reasonable time allowed to him to remove his effects.——His authority to go there was as a servant of the Company——When that character ceased, it is difficult to conceive, what right he could have to reside in a country where it is declared by Statute, not only, that no *British* subject shall go, sail, or repair to, but that no *British* subject shall be, or be found in (other than those authorized by the Company) under the penalty of a misdemeanour. It will follow, as a consequence, if this residence was unlawful under the several statutes recited, that it might be lawful to seize his person.

Answer by Mr. Glynn. I conceive the treatment of Mr. *Bolts* to be totally unjustifiable.

Answer by Mr. Dunning and Mr. Lee. We are of opinion, that the seizure and transportation of Mr. *Bolts* to *England*, under the circumstances of this case, was illegal.

Question. Whether, under the circumstances of this case, and especially by the Directors approving and ordering the execution of the intentions of the Governor and Council with respect to their sending Mr. *Bolts* off by force, though such approbation did not come to the knowledge of the Governor and Council before Mr. *Bolts* was forcibly seized by their order, will not subject the Company to an action for such seizure, and the consequences attending it, as principals?

Answer by Mr. Wedderburn. I am very clearly of opinion, that no action could be maintained upon this case against the Company.

Answer by Mr. Glynn. I conceive that a corporation cannot be subject to an action founded on a *Tort*, though the individual members of it may.

Answer by Mr. Dunning and Mr. Lee. The subsequent approbation of the Directors certainly cannot subject them to any action for the injury committed before.

Queſtion. Whether the ſeveral notices for Mr. *Bolts*'s departure, before his amotion from the office of Alderman, were not void in law; and in caſe Mr. *Bolts*'s ſeizure ſhould be conſidered as illegal, either on account of his being unlawfully removed from the Mayor's Court, or as not having a reaſonable time allowed him to ſettle his old concerns, or otherwiſe; the Company, or the Governor and Council, will not be obliged to make ſatisfaction to Mr. *Bolts*, in damages upon an Action to be brought for that offence: and in what manner do you think the ſame ought to be adjuſted?

Anſwer by Mr. Wedderburn. The notices for Mr. *Bolts*'s departure, while he had a right to remain there, will certainly not juſtify the removing him; but they will have a conſiderable effect to mitigate the damages upon an action; becauſe it is a leſs injury to be removed (though illegally) after repeated notices, and a conſiderable time allowed to ſettle his affairs, *viz.* from *January* 1767, to *September* 1768, than to be forced away without notice, and no time allowed.

Anſwer by Mr. Glynn. They who have perſonally been the inſtruments of wrong to Mr. *Bolts* will be anſwerable to him in damages; but I think the Company cannot be corporately anſwerable for it.

Anſwer by Mr. Dunning and Mr. Lee. Mr. *Bolts*, being an Alderman, was not obliged to attend to thoſe notices. The *quantum* of damages will depend upon the judgment of a jury; to aſſiſt which it will be material to give a general account of Mr. *Bolts*'s ſituation and affairs in that country: but we apprehend, that he will not be permitted to enter into a minute detail of the probable, or even actual loſſes he may have ſuſtained in the different articles mentioned, how likely ſoever it may be, that thoſe loſſes would not have happened if he had been ſuffered to remain in *India*.——If, for the purpoſe of giving this evidence, it is neceſſary for Mr. *Bolts* to avail himſelf of the teſtimony of witneſſes who are in *India*, and likely to remain there, he muſt file a bill in equity, with a view to obtain a commiſſion for their examination.

Queſtion. Whether the Company, or the Governor and Council ought not to make him ſatisfaction for the monies outſtanding on his concerns in trade, or if any part thereof ſhould be recovered by Mr. *Bolts*, will he not be allowed the commiſſion, wages of agents and ſervants, and other neceſſary expences on account thereof; and ſo much of ſuch principal and profits as ſhall then be outſtanding, and eſpecially upon his transferring his intereſt therein to the perſons obliged to pay the ſame?

Anſwer by Mr. Wedderburn. The *quantum* of damages is a matter totally in the diſcretion of a jury; but there are certain rules which no temperate jury ever will violate. The computation of Mr. *Bolts*'s ſuppoſed profits upon all the tranſactions in which he was engaged at the time he was obliged to leave *India*, can never enter into any meaſure of damages that he will be intitled to recover.

Anſwer by Mr. Glynn. Mr. *Bolts* will be intitled to all the damages he can prove that he has actually ſuſtained, and likewiſe ſuch damages as a jury ſhall think adequate to the injury done him, in the ſeizure and impriſonment of his perſon.

Anſwer by Mr. Dunning and Mr. Lee. The probable profits upon Mr. *Bolts*'s concerns in trade cannot, as we conceive, be offered in evidence to increaſe the damages; but if Mr. *Bolts* has been obliged to expend money by reaſon of his abſence, to procure that aſſiſtance in his affairs, which if preſent he would not have wanted, this ſeems proper evidence to be laid before a jury.

NUM. VIII.

COPY of the joint Opinions of William De Grey, *Eſq; now Lord Chief Juſtice of the Court of Common Pleas, the late Right Honourable* Charles Yorke, *afterwards appointed Lord High Chancellor of* England, *and* Charles Sayer, *Eſq; the* East India *Company's Standing Counſel, on the Caſe of* William Bolts. *Dated the 9th* Auguſt 1769.

WE are of opinion, that, by the Stat. 9 *George* I. C. 26. Sect. 6. and 7. a covenanted ſervant of the Company who has been diſmiſſed, or has reſigned, may have notice given him to quit *India*, in caſe he is not otherwiſe lawfully authorized to continue there. And if ſuch perſon ſhall refuſe to depart from the *Eaſt Indies*, after reaſonable time allowed for ſettling his accounts and calling in his effects, he will be liable to be ſeized, and brought to *England*, and proſecuted as an offender, according to the proviſions of the ſtatute. This power ought to be very tenderly exerciſed in all caſes, and only for the ſake of public good; where the privileges and commerce of the Company are invaded by ſuch offenders; their regulations violated; and their *European* or *Indian* enemies abetted and ſupported. In the preſent caſe, the Preſident and Council of *Calcutta* appear, from the papers, to have had ſtrong and juſt grounds of diſſatisfaction with Mr. *Bolts* in ſome * of theſe reſpects. But we think that they have given him conſiderable advantages againſt themſelves in the courſe of their proceedings. *Firſt*, The appointment of him to the office of Alderman, after the letter of ſuſpenſion of the 28th *Auguſt* 1766, amounts in law to a licence to remain in *India* (though not to trade there) the very nature of his duty and office under the charter for eſtabliſhing courts of juſtice in *Bengal*, requiring his acceptance of the office, and his attendance under penalties. The conſequence of this is, that every notice to depart, ſubſequent to his nomination as an Alderman, till after his removal, may be conſidered as void in law, being

* It was not extraordinary that theſe learned gentlemen ſhould give this opinion, ſeeing that the moſt material circumſtances, in favour of the writer, were not inſerted in the caſe laid before them. Had they ſeen all the papers, they would have found that, ſo far from having any juſt grounds of diſſatisfaction againſt him, when he was impriſoned and baniſhed, the Company had the greateſt reaſon to applaud the writer's conduct; which is now wholly ſubmitted to the judgment of the candid public. See alſo note, Letter F. page 554.

given

given to a perſon not found in the *Eaſt Indies* without licence; but (as the ſtatute 9 *George* I. expreſſes it) *lawfully authorized thereunto.* The office of Alderman continues for life; and can be vacated only by *voluntary departure* (in the caſes ſpecially expreſt) or by *amotion*, for reaſonable cauſe (in the judicial manner required by the charter): therefore an Alderman is leſs dependant on the diſcretionary powers of the Preſident and Council, than a Free-merchant, whoſe licence is expired, or a mere ſervant, who is diſmiſſed or has reſigned. It is not improbable, that Mr. *Bolts* reſigned the ſervice of the Company, in *November* 1766, in order to avail himſelf of the clear and full benefit of this diſtinction. *Secondly*, we think, That it is doubtful whether Mr. *Bolts* has been duely removed from his office in the corporation of *Calcutta*. As to the offence charged upon him, in endeavouring to ſecrete and ſuppreſs, or to render ineffectual his indentures with the Company, for the ſake of defeating any action for breach of his covenants, we think, that (by reaſon of the relation which the different branches of the Company's ſervice bear to each other, and to the whole of their conſtitution) *a miſbehaviour, or miſdemeanour* (ſo deſcribed) might *found* a complaint againſt him in his corporate capacity, and (if fully charged and proved) be a reaſonable cauſe of amotion; but it appears to us, that no ſteps were taken for that purpoſe, from *November* 1766, when he reſigned, till long after the notices to depart and peremptory * order of *May* 4th 1768, that he ſhould be ſent to *Europe* by the firſt ſhip diſpatched that ſeaſon. The information was not exhibited by Mr. *Verelſt* till the end of *Auguſt* 1768, within leſs than a month of his ſeizure; not ſo much by way of original complaint, as by way of recrimination, to retaliate for his *petition* to the grand jury, and his ſeveral proteſts, and his proſecutions of *Baber* and *Boughton*, the Clerk of the Peace and Secretary of the Select Committee. The matter of the information ought alſo to be weighed. It ſuggeſts merely (as we ſee it drawn out in form, and annext in writing to the ſummons) an accuſation for ſigning the new covenants, not with his own hand, but by his writer; which Mr. *Bolts* will be adviſed, by his Counſel in *England*, was equally binding in law with his own ſignature; and they will excuſe it plauſibly, by ſaying, that no man of common ſenſe could be abſurd enough to think otherwiſe; and that his inducement to it might be an idle, but innocent one, to evade a raſh oath which he had ſworn, that he would never ſign them. *Baber*'s evidence indeed goes materially further than the information, and charges him with a different offence (not in iſſue) *viz.* with endeavouring artfully to procure a re-delivery of the deed into his own cuſtody, with ſome bad deſign, not explained by the witneſs, but under colour of re-executing it. This fact is denied by Mr. *Bolts*; and no other proof of it is offered than the evidence of *Baber*, at that time a defendant in *Bolts*'s proſecution. Beſides all this, the ſummons ſeems defective, in not ſpecially requiring *Bolts* to ſhew cauſe why he ſhould not be removed (according to the ſpecial authority given by the charter) from the office of Alderman, on account of his offence. And the ſentence pronounced againſt him, upon the 5th of *September* 1768, only declares him diſqualified, but is no regular judgment of amotion.

* See note, Letter F. page 555.

If

If any of theſe objections however ſhould be held too ſtrict on an action for damages, brought by Mr. *Bolts*, againſt all or any of the gentlemen in the Preſidency of *Bengal*, and the amotion ſhould be deemed valid in a court of law in *England*, ſtill we think that it would have been proper to have given a new notice for his departure out of *India*, after ſuch removal from his place of Alderman; and that the time which intervened between the day of the ſentence, and the day of ſeizing his perſon, that is, between the 5th and 23d *September*, *was very ſhort*: which circumſtances give colour to Mr. *Bolts*'s complaints. On the other hand, it is true, that the Preſident and Council appear to have acted without any ill intention towards the Company, but not with coolneſs.

Their principal defence, in anſwer to the objections above ſtated to the irregularity of their conduct muſt be, that the firſt notice of departure given to Mr. *Bolts* was accepted by him (as is proved by his letter 3d *March* 1767) and that notice was enlarged, from time to time, upon his own requeſt and remonſtrances, till eighteen months were elapſed; and it is not pretended that he wanted * time, either for making his defence againſt the charge, or ſecuring his effects.——As to Mr. *Bolts*'s complaints, that the witneſſes were not permitted to be examined in ſupport of his petition to the grand jury, on the 27th *May* 1768, we think that the † offer made by the Court to adjourn to another day, in order that they might be regularly ſummoned, or ſerved with ſubpœnas, was conſiſtent with juſtice and the rules of proceeding.—— Neither the proſecutor, nor the grand jury, were intitled to the aid of the Court upon the ſudden, for the purpoſe of compelling witneſſes in the manner it was aſked. But if the witneſſes had been duly ſerved with ſubpœnas to appear, we think that any objections to the examination of them, ariſing from the duty of their offices and obligation to ſecrecy, muſt have been made by the witneſſes themſelves at the time of their examination, and propoſed to the Court for their judgment.

Upon the whole, we are of opinion, that the proceedings againſt Mr. *Bolts* have not been *ſufficiently regular and cautious*, and that the event of an action for falſe impriſonment (if any ſhall be brought hereafter) againſt Mr. *Verelſt*, &c. is uncertain, and will depend much on the impreſſion which the various circumſtances of the caſe may make upon a jury.——If Mr. *Bolts* ſhall appear to the Court and jury to have been well removed from his office of Alderman, and to have acted with inſolence towards his ſuperiors, and in breach of his duty to the Company, he will fail in his action. But in caſe his amotion from his corporate office ſhall be held illegal, it is probable that he will recover conſiderable damages, *as a perſon ſeized and ſent home without warrant from the ſtatute, and contrary to law.*

(Signed) WILL. DE GREY,
C. YORKE,
C. SAYER.

* By this paragraph it would alſo appear, that the writer's various letters repreſenting the impoſſibility of his concluding his concerns in trade, within the time preſcribed him (had he been bound ſo to do) were not communicated to theſe learned gentlemen.

† See note, Letter F. page 556.

NUM. IX.

COPY *of the Reaſons given by* John Dunning, Alexander Wedderburn, *and* John Glynn, *Eſquires, in Behalf of* William Bolts, *upon the Hearing of his Appeal before his Majeſty in Council in* June 1770, *againſt the Judgment of the Preſident and Council of* Bengal, *for removing the Appellant from his Office of One of the Judges of the Mayor's Court at* Calcutta.

THE judgment of removal from the office of Alderman of the Mayor's Court of *Calcutta*, pronounced againſt the appellant by the Reſpondents, is in ſubſtance, as well as in form (which in ſuch caſes is eſſential to juſtice) a mere nullity.

I. The charge exhibited againſt the appellant is, that inſtead of ſigning a deed himſelf, he directed his writer to ſign it for him, and delivered the ſame as his deed to the Council or their Secretary.——Suppoſing this fact to be true, it is impoſſible to conceive how it could merit any of the epithets beſtowed upon it by the information, ſince it is extremely certain, that a deed ſo ſigned and delivered is equally binding upon the party, as if he had with his own hand ſubſcribed his name to it; and it is wonderful that this charge ſhould have appeared *criminal* in the eyes of a Court compoſed of merchants, every one of whom muſt have known, from his own experience, that he was bound by his name being ſet to a writing by another perſon with his privity or direction.

II. Of this fact (ſuch as it was) no evidence was given; for the affidavit of *Edward Baber*, a perſon upon the ſpot, and who actually ſigns the order of the Council conſequent to the judgment, ought not to have been received. His affidavit too (ſuppoſing it admiſſible) is an evidence of the moſt diſhonourable ſpecies, for it is founded upon the diſcovery of a private and confidential converſation, in which the appellant ſhewed the ſtrongeſt deſire to add every poſſible formality to the covenant he had executed, and, as *Baber* ſtates it, applied to him for that purpoſe ſolely; not as one conſcious that he had either done or intended any thing wrong, but as a man, knowing himſelf to be obnoxious, and deſirous of avoiding even a remote poſſibility of cavil upon his conduct.

III. If the judgment could (as it cannot) be ſupported upon the merits, yet as the appellant was condemned unheard, without any time allowed for his defence, as the charter, founded upon the common rule of juſtice, requires, the judgment ought, upon that ground, to be reverſed: and, indeed, it carries with it its own condemnation; for the judgment is expreſsly founded upon this, that Mr. *Bolts* had refuſed to make his defence, unleſs Mr. *Verelſt* (his accuſer) were preſent, which the Council is pleaſed to judge was by no means neceſſary; and therefore their opinion is, that Mr. *Bolts* had in part acknowledged the charge.

IV. The judgment is not warranted by the charter; for the authority to remove is given to the Preſident and Council. In this caſe, the Preſident choſe to become the accuſer. If he concurred in the judgment, as Mr. *Baber*'s notification of it to the Mayor's Court ſeems to intimate, then he has made himſelf judge and party: if he did not concur in it, then the judgment is pronounced by the Council alone, to whom no ſuch authority is given.

(Signed) J. DUNNING,
AL. WEDDERBURN,
J. GLYNN.

NUM. X.

COPY of his Majeſty's moſt gracious Judgment, at a Court held at St. James's, *the* 15*th of* June 1770; *reſtoring* William Bolts *to his Office of Alderman, or one of the Judges of the Mayor's Court of* Calcutta, *in* Bengal.

At a Court at *St. James*'s, the 15th *June* 1770, preſent,

The King's Moſt Excellent Majeſty,

Lord Preſident,	Earl of *Briſtol*,
Duke of *Marlborough*,	Viſcount *Weymouth*,
Duke of *Ancaſter*,	Sir *Edward Hawke*.

WHEREAS there was this day read at the Board a report from the Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of Council for hearing Appeals from the Plantations, *&c.* dated the 11th of this inſtant, in the words following, *viz.*

"Your Majeſty having been pleaſed, by your order in Council of the 14th of *February* laſt, to refer unto this Committee the humble petition and appeal of *William Bolts*, late of *Calcutta*, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal*, againſt the Preſident and Council there, for having, on the 5th *September* 1768, adjudged him to be removed from his office of one of the Aldermen and Judges of the Mayor's Court of *Calcutta*; and humbly praying, that the ſaid ſentence or adjudication, for the removal of the Petitioner from his ſaid office of one of the Aldermen and Judges of the ſaid Mayor's Court, may be reverſed, and that he may be reſtored thereto; and that the Petitioner may have ſuch farther and other relief in the premiſes as your Majeſty ſhall think fit: the Lords of the Committee, in obedience to your Majeſty's ſaid order of reference, this day proceeded to take the ſaid petition and appeal into their conſideration, and were attended by Council on both ſides; and the reſpondents not making any defence, their Lordſhips do therefore agree humbly to report, as their opinion to your Majeſty, that the ſaid judgment of the Preſident and Council of *Fort William*, in *Bengal*, of the 5th *September* 1768, adjudging the appellant to be removed from his office of Alderman and one of the Judges of the Mayor's Court of *Calcutta*, ſhould be reverſed, and that he ſhould be reſtored to his ſaid office, without coſts, none having been prayed on the part of the appellant."

His

His Majeſty, taking the ſaid report into conſideration, was pleaſed, with the advice of his Privy Council, to approve thereof, and to order, as it is hereby ordered, that the ſaid judgment of the Preſident and Council of *Fort William*, in *Bengal*, of the 5th *September* 1768, adjudging the appellant to be removed from his office of Alderman and one of the Judges of the Mayor's Court of *Calcutta*, be reverſed; and that he be reſtored to his ſaid office without coſts, none having been prayed on the part of the appellant: whereof the Governor or Preſident and Council of *Fort William* in *Bengal*, the Mayor's Court of *Calcutta*, and all others whom it may concern, are to take notice, and govern themſelves accordingly.

(Signed) STEPH. COTTRELL.

NUM. XI.

COPY of the humble Petition of William Bolts *to the King's Moſt Excellent Majeſty in Council. Dated the* 21*ſt* July 1770.

To the King's Moſt Excellent Majeſty in Council.

The humble Petition of *William Bolts*, late of *Calcutta*, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal*,

SHEWETH,

THAT his late Majeſty, King *George* the Second, by letters patent, under the great ſeal of *Great Britain*, eſtabliſhed within the factory of *Fort William*, in *Bengal*, a body politic and corporate, by the name of the Mayor and Aldermen of *Calcutta*, at *Fort William*, in *Bengal*; and ordained "that "the ſaid Mayor and Aldermen ſhould be a Court of Record, by the name "of the Mayor's Court of *Calcutta*; and authorized them to hear and deter- "mine all civil cauſes: and ordained, that if any perſon choſen an Alderman "ſhould neglect or refuſe to accept ſuch office, not having a reaſonable excuſe "for ſo doing, he ſhould forfeit and pay ſuch fine as might be agreed on by "the ſaid Court, with the conſent of the ſaid Governor and Council: and that "the perſons elected Aldermen ſhould continue in their offices during their "natural lives; but with a power, nevertheleſs, for the Preſident and Council "of *Fort William* in *Bengal* for the time being, or the major part of them, "whereof the Governor or Preſident, or in his abſence the ſenior of the "Council then reſiding at *Fort William* aforeſaid, to be one, upon reaſonable "cauſe ſhewn in writing, and reaſonable time given to make his defence, to "remove any Alderman from his office: but that if ſuch Alderman ſhould "think himſelf aggrieved thereby, he was to be at liberty, within fourteen "days after ſuch removal, to appeal to his Majeſty in Council: and ordained, "that if any of the ſaid Aldermen *ſhall be abſent from the town of* Calcutta *by "the ſpace of twelve calendar months, the place or office of ſuch Alderman ſhall "be void; and it ſhall and may be lawful to chooſe another Alderman in the ſtead "of ſuch perſon, in the ſame manner as is provided in caſe ſuch Alderman had been "naturally dead."*

That your Petitioner, in the year 1766, was duly chosen and appointed one of the Aldermen or Judges of the said Court, and was in all respects duly qualified, agreeably to the said letters patent, to exercise the said office.

That the Governor and Council of *Calcutta*, in *Bengal*, having conceived very unreasonable disgusts against your Petitioner, formed a resolution to seize and send your Petitioner a prisoner to *England*, without regarding the said charter; and accordingly, in their general letters from *Calcutta*, of the 14th *September* 1767, and 10th *December* 1767, they advised the then Court of Directors, that though your Petitioner was an Aldetman, or one of your Majesty's Judges, they were resolved to seize him and send him, by force, a prisoner to *England*.

That the then Court of Directors, of whom thirteen persons are now in the Direction, in answer to the letters and representations sent, unknown to your Petitioner, to them, by the said Governor and Council, in the 80th paragraph of a letter, dated *London*, the 11th *November* 1768, wrote to the said Governor and Council, that "they approved of their intentions against your Petitioner, and ordered them, that, if not already done, they should carry the same into execution by the first ship."

That the Governor and Council, impatient for to wreak their private pique against your Petitioner, did not wait for the said approbation of their constituents, but agreeably to their former resolution, on the 23d of *September* 1768, sent a large party of armed soldiers, who suddenly surrounded and took possession of your Petitioner's house, seized him, conducted him to close confinement, and forced him on board a ship, to be brought a prisoner to *England*. Previous to which the said Governor and Council however, by way of caution, invented a fictitious complaint against your Petitioner, lodged it before themselves, judged it to be a reasonable cause for removing him from his office of Alderman, and removed him accordingly.

That your Petitioner, upon his arrival in *England*, after seven months confinement, appealed to your Majesty in Council, against the Governor and Council's said sentence or adjudication, for the removal of your Petitioner from his office of one of the Judges of the said Mayor's Court: and by order of the 15th *June* last past, your Majesty were graciously pleased to reverse the judgment of the said Governor and Council, and to restore your Petitioner to his said office.

That on the 28th *June* past a letter was sent to your Petitioner from the Court of Directors of the *East India* Company, importing, that they expected your Petitioner should repair to *Calcutta* in one of their ships of the ensuing season, in order to resume the functions of his said office: to which your Petitioner replied, that he would do his utmost endeavours to proceed to *Calcutta* as therein directed; but that the unparalleled difficulties into which he and many with him were involved, by the seizure and transportation of his person, he apprehended would prevent him from departing within the twelve months; and your Petitioner therefore requested, that the said Court, in consideration of his hard circumstances, would acquiesce in his remaining in *England* two years from the date of your Majesty's sentence of reversal.

That on the 13th *July* inſtant an anſwer was ſent to your Petitioner, whereby the ſaid Directors, who had before aſſumed the power of ordering your Petitioner to be ſeized and ſent a priſoner to *England*, without any ceremony or regard to the ſaid letters patent, acquaint him, that they underſtand it is *not in their power to acquieſce* in your Petitioner's remaining in *England* ſo long, and repeating, that they expected he ſhould repair to *Calcutta* in one of their ſhips of the enſuing ſeaſon, in order to reſume the functions of his office within the time preſcribed by the ſaid letters patent.

Your Petitioner humbly preſumes to repreſent to your Majeſty, that the cruelty and inhumanity with which he has been oppreſſed by the ſaid Company cannot be paralleled from the hiſtory of many reigns back, within any part of your Majeſty's dominions: for the particular circumſtances of which he begs leave humbly to refer to the annexed affidavits and narrative, and to other documents to be produced at the hearing of this petition.

That, particularly, your Petitioner has been taken from effects belonging to himſelf and others, to the amount of 185,000*l.* without knowing into whoſe hands they have fallen; ſent to *England* deſtitute, though poſſeſſed of a conſiderable fortune in *India*; your Petitioner's body being now required as ſecurity in *England* for demands he cannot pay, from his having been ſuddenly forced from his effects in *India*, and for which he is liable to ſuffer impriſonment until he can receive thoſe effects.

That theſe and other hardſhips, under which your Petitioner labours, will render it impoſſible for him to depart from *England* within the ſpace of twelve months, in order to reſume the functions of his ſaid office, which he ſuſpects it is intended by the ſaid Directors again to deprive him of, ſhould he remain in *England* after the expiration of that term; notwithſtanding his abſence has been and is totally involuntary, and partly occaſioned by the act of thoſe very Directors, who, knowing the difficulties into which your Petitioner has been thereby involved, wiſh to avail themſelves thereof to his prejudice.

That as your Petitioner accepted of his office under the penalties preſcribed by the ſaid letters patent, and has not abſented, nor will abſent himſelf voluntarily from the duty thereof;

Therefore your Petitioner humbly prays, that, in conſideration of all the circumſtances of his very hard caſe, your Majeſty will be graciouſly pleaſed to interpoſe by your Royal Prerogative, and grant your Petitioner leave to remain in *England* for the ſpace of two years from the date of your Majeſty's ſentence of reverſal beforeſaid; and that the perſon who ſtands in your Petitioner's place, be ordered to continue to act in his office until your Petitioner can arrive in *Calcutta*, to reſume the functions thereof.

And your Petitioner ſhall ever pray.

21ſt July 1770. (Signed) WILLIAM BOLTS.]

NUM. XII.

COPY of the Proceedings of the Mayor's Court of Calcutta, *on the* 22*d* March, *and* 3*d* April 1771, *upon the Reſtoration of* William Bolts *to his Seat, as one of the Aldermen or Judges of that Court; under the Atteſtations of Mr.* William Magee, *Regiſter.*

Calcutta, Friday the 22*d March* 1771.

At a Court held, preſent,

John Robinſon, Eſq; Mayor,
Meſſrs. *William Pawſon*,
Robert Crawford, Aldermen.

THE Regiſter laid before the Court a letter from the Secretary of the Preſident and Council, directed to this Court, in the following words, that is to ſay,

" To the Honourable the Mayor's Court of *Calcutta*.

GENTLEMEN,

By the directions of the Honourable the Preſident and Council, I have the honour to incloſe, for your information, an extract of a letter received from *Europe*, by the *Dolphin*; by which you will perceive, Gentlemen, that Mr. *William Bolts* is reſtored to his office of an Alderman of your Court.

I have the honour to be,

GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obedient, and
moſt humble ſervant,
(Signed) W. WYNNE, Sec."

Extract of a Letter from the Honourable the Court of Directors, per Dolphin. *Dated* 27*th* June 1770.

" His Majeſty having approved of the report of the Lords of his Privy Council, and their ſentence therein mentioned, whereby the judgment given by you, for removing Mr. *William Bolts* from the office of one of the Aldermen of the Mayor's Court of *Calcutta*, is reverſed; and he is reſtored to his ſaid office, purſuant to his petition of appeal to his Majeſty: and we having, in conſequence of ſaid ſentence of reverſal, ſignified to him our expectations that he repair to *Calcutta* in one of the Company's ſhips of the enſuing ſeaſon, in order to reſume the functions of his ſaid office, you muſt acquaint Mr. *Lawrell*, who was appointed to fill up Mr. *Bolts*'s vacancy as an Alderman, that he muſt relinquiſh that office, and is no longer to act in that capacity, after his receipt of your notice.

2 A true extract.

(Signed) W. WYNNE, Sec."

Ordered

Ordered, That a full Court ſhall be ſummoned next Court-day, to conſider of the ſaid letter.

A true copy.
(Signed) W. MAGEE, Reg.

Calcutta, *Wedneſday the 3d April* 1771.

At a Court held, preſent,

John Robinſon, Eſq; Mayor,
Meſſrs. *Cornelius Goodwin*,
David Killican,
Robert Sanderſon,
William Pawſon,
Robert Crawford,
John Evelyn, and
George Bogle, Aldermen.

On motion, the letter from the Secretary of the Preſident and Council, directed to this Court, under date the 14th *ult.* coming on to be conſidered by and before the Court; and it appearing to the Court, by the report of the Lords of his Majeſty's Privy Council, that his Majeſty was pleaſed to reverſe the ſentence of Mr. *William Bolts*'s removal from the office of an Alderman of this Court; therefore Mr. *William Bolts* is again reſtored to his former ſeat as an Alderman of this Court. And as Mr. *James Lawrell* hath already reſigned his ſeat of an Alderman of this Court, and Mr. *Robert Crawford* has informed the Court, that he is ſhortly about to depart for *Dacca*, and begged leave of the Court to reſign his ſeat as an Alderman of this Court,

The Court taking the ſaid report into conſideration, have thought proper to grant the ſame, and returned him thanks for his faithful ſervices, and that by his reſignation the number of members preſcribed by his late Moſt Gracious Majeſty's charter are now complete, by Mr. *Bolts*'s being reſtored to his former ſeat.

Ordered, That the Regiſter ſhall inform the Preſident and Council thereof.

A true copy.
(Signed) W. MAGEE, Reg.

To the Honourable *John Cartier*, Eſq; Preſident, *&c.* Council at *Fort William*, in *Bengal*.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

I am directed by the Honourable the Mayor's Court to acknowledge the receipt of a letter from your Secretary, under date the 14th *ult.* accompanying an extract of a letter from the Honourable Court of Directors, dated the 27th day of *June* 1770, and to inform you in anſwer thereto, that Mr. *William Bolts* is again reſtored to his former ſeat of an Alderman of this Court, conformable to the ſentence pronounced by his Majeſty in Council. I am farther to inform you, that Mr. *Robert Crawford*, one of the Aldermen of ſaid Court, having obtained leave of the Court to reſign his ſeat as an Alderman of the

ſaid

ſaid Court, thereby the number of Aldermen of the ſaid Court became complete, conformable to his late Moſt Gracious Majeſty's charter.

I am, with due reſpect,

Town-hall, Calcutta,
the 3d April 1771.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,
Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,
(Signed) W. MAGEE, Reg.

A true copy.
(Signed) W. MAGEE, Reg.

Num. XIII.

COPY of the Report made by his Majeſty's Attorney and Solicitor General, on the Petition of William Bolts. *Dated the* 16*th* May 1771.

To the Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of Council for Plantation Affairs, &c.

May it pleaſe your Lordſhips,

IN obedience to your Lordſhip's order in Council, of the 4th *December*, one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventy, ſetting forth, that his Majeſty having been pleaſed, by his order in Council, of the 27th *July* laſt, to refer unto your Lordſhips the humble petition of *William Bolts*, late of *Calcutta*, at *Fort William*, in the *Eaſt Indies*, together with ſeveral papers thereto annexed, ſetting forth (amongſt other things) the many hardſhips and oppreſſions the Petitioner has ſuffered from the Governor and Council of *Calcutta*; and that the Preſident and Council there had, by their ſentence or adjudication, removed the Petitioner from his office of one of the Aldermen and Judges of the Mayor's Court of *Calcutta* aforeſaid; which ſaid ſentence his Majeſty was pleaſed to reverſe by his order in Council, of the 15th of *June* laſt paſt: and humbly praying (for the reaſons contained in the ſaid petition) that his Majeſty would be graciouſly pleaſed to interpoſe, by his Royal Prerogative, and grant the Petitioner leave to remain in *England* for the ſpace of two years from the date of his Majeſty's ſentence of reverſal beforeſaid, and that the perſon who ſtands in the Petitioner's place be ordered to continue to act in his office, until the Petitioner can arrive in *Calcutta*, to reſume the functions thereof.

That in obedience to his Majeſty's ſaid order, your Lordſhips had taken the ſaid petition, and the papers accompanying the ſame, into your conſideration, and were thereby pleaſed to refer the ſame to us, to conſider thereof, and report to your Lordſhips, whether his Majeſty can, by his Prerogative, comply with the Petitioner's requeſt:

We have taken the ſame into our conſideration; and are humbly of opinion, that his Majeſty cannot legally comply with the Petitioner's requeſt.

(Signed) E. THURLOW,
AL. WEDDERBURN.

16*th May* 1771.

FINIS.